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THE TIMES

50p

No. 65,844

SATURDAY MARCH 22 1997

TODAY

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Hamilton attacks chief whip

Major rejects sleaze row slur as 'junk'

By Andrew Pierce and Arthur Leathley

JOHN MAJOR was depressed and irritated yesterday as new sleaze allegations continued to overshadow the Tory election campaign.

The Prime Minister was visibly angry as he dismissed as "junk" claims that he had ignored evidence that Tim Smith, the MP for Beaconsfield, had accepted large undeclared *cash payments when he* appointed him to the Government in 1994.

Mr Smith told the then Chief Whip David Waddington in February 1989 that he had *not* declared payments of up to £25,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods. However, Mr Major insisted yesterday that the information had not been passed to him after he became Prime Minister the following year.

The claim had been made in *The Guardian*, which *published five pages of transcript* evidence from the Commons inquiry into the cash-for-questions affair. The newspaper, which may face contempt of Parliament charges, had obtained the material through its own participation in the investigation, and its *decision to* publish was deplored by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary *Standards Commissioner*. Sir Gordon said: "It is a gross breach of the trust placed in those to whom documents were sent, in confidence, under the inquiry pro*cedures.*" He *repeated his* regret that it would not be possible for the Standards and Privileges Committee to receive and act on his full report before the election. "But the selective leaking of evidence is against the interests of natural justice."

The two former ministers at the heart of the storm were in *their constituencies last night* for their associations' annual meetings, where the sleaze *allegations dominated events.*

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Neil Hamilton, *the former* Trade Minister and MP for Tatton, insisted that he *had* robustly defended the allegations in his evidence to Sir Gordon's inquiry.

Evidence obtained by *The Times* reveals that Mr Hamilton launched a bitter attack on Richard Ryder, the Tory chief whip at the time the allegations were *made, for* withdrawing support when the media offensive became too "relentless".

Documents obtained by *The Times also reveal for the first* time that Mr Smith admitted to Sir Gordon that he was part of a group of five Tory MPs *who worked "in operation"* with Ian Greer, the lobbyist, and Mr Al Fayed.

Mr Smith, who accepted between £18,000 to £25,000 in used £50 notes from Mr Al Fayed, said: "I think it was very much in Mr Greer's *interest to show that there* definitely was a group. Obviously I was part of that *group.*"

Mr Smith, who resigned as Northern Ireland Minister *when the cash-for-questions* allegations were published in October 1994, was asked whether Mr Hamilton was "performing identical functions to you"? He replied: "Yes. He certainly was a member of that group."

Other MPs in the group included Sir Andrew Bowden, the MP for Brighton *Kemptown,* who acepted £5,000 for his constituency funds from Mr Greer. He is also accused of receiving a further £5,000 from Mr Al Fayed who then dropped *him*, allegedly because he became "too greedy". He has denied the charge.

They also included Sir Peter Hordern, the MP for *Horsham*, who is revealed today as the tenth man on the list of MPs still being investigated by Sir Gordon Downey. Sir Peter, who listed his connection to the House of Fraser in the Register of MPs' interests, was paid £72,000 for his

Continued on page 2, col 7

MICHAEL KREME/AFP

A policewoman carries a six-month-old boy from the scene of yesterday's bombing at the Apropos café in Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv suicide bomber kills three

THREE people were killed and more than forty wounded yesterday when an Islamic *suicide bomb ripped through* a Tel Aviv coffee shop where children in fancy dress were *celebrating the Purim holiday.*

It was the first such attack since Binyamin Netanyahu came to power last May promising Israelis "peace with security". *He* immediately blamed the Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat, while fellow members of his coalition government called for an end to talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The bomb's victims included a six-month-old boy dressed in a traditional Purim red and blue clown's costume who was *carried* away screaming by a police woman, his head matted with blood. His mother was among those injured by the 20-year-old killer, who stared at his victims before detonating his dufflebag nailbomb.

Last night hatred between Israelis and Palestinians was nearly at breaking point after *reports* of Palestinian joy at the attack, which was shown repeatedly on television.

Riots in Hebron against the new Jewish settlement at Har Homa left four Israeli soldiers wounded and 30 Palestinians were treated for gas inhala*tion. Troops used live bullets* to prevent Arabs from storming a Jewish settlement building.

At the same time, a leader of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas told a cheering crowd of 10,000 at a rally in the West Bank city of Nablus: "I have good news for you. There is a suicide operation in Tel Aviv." *At least a hundred* would-be suicide bombers are said to be standing by in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel blames Arafat, page 18
Leading article, page 25

Nato deadlock at summit

The Helsinki summit ended with Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin agreeing to disagree over Nato's plans *to extend its* membership eastwards. The two leaders did, however, *make a commitment* to forge ahead in several areas of arms control and economic co-operation. Mr Yeltsin said: "We want to do away with the past *mistrust* and animosity. We can't accomplish this immediately." .... Page 20

W. Awdry dies

The Rev W. Awdry, creator of Thomas the Tank Engine, has died aged 85. *But the fleet of* trains that has delighted generations of children will live *on. Awdry's son* Christopher will continue to chronicle their adventures .... Page 8
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Labour refuses to back Howard's choice for Tote

By Richard Evans and Richard Ford

THE Tote chairmanship became a casualty of general election fever last night after *Michael Howard and* Jack Straw clashed over who should succeed Lord Wyatt of Weeford as head of the state-run pool betting operation.

Major-General Guy Watkins, 63, who ran racing in Hong Kong for ten years, was Mr Howard's *surprise choice* for the £75,000-a-year post, but now the appointment has *been put on hold* until after May 1 — the day a new chairman should *take over.*

The Home Secretary, who was obliged to consult his *Labour shadow* over the high-profile job, put forward General Watkins's *name on* Thursday night. Mr Straw then said that he wanted to *interview the shortlist* of applicants. Mr Howard refused and after more talks the appointment was put off until after election day.

A Home Office *spokesman* said: "The normal practice is for all major appointments to be *frozen* during a period of a general election. For appointments to be made during this period would have been exceptional and would require the *agreement of the* Opposition."

Mr Straw said that it had been well known for some months that a new Tote chairman was needed. In a state*ment he said the Home Sec*retary had chosen Parliament's last business day to ask for approval of his candidate. He had told Mr Howard "it was inappropriate to make such a major public appointment now that the election has *actually been called*".

Labour has approved other Home Office appointments because the party knew the candidates. It had no detailed *knowledge of the Tote's* shortlisted candidates.

Lord Wyatt, Tote chairman for 21 years, had backed Lieutenant-General Sir Willie Rous, a retired Army Board member, to replace him.

Racing uncertainty, page 56

Writers pay homage to V S Pritchett

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

V. S. PRITCHETT, the master *of short story writing* and literary criticism, has died aged 96.

The novelist Martin Amis said last night: "He was one of the very greatest English writers of the century. His collection of stories is perhaps the greatest single volume by any writer this century. He was a visionary: he wrote about people as if he knew exactly what they dreamt every night. *He was an inspiration on my* writing."

That view was echoed by the novelist Julian Barnes, who described Sir Victor as "the best English short story writer of the last 50 years".

Claire Tomalin, who as literary editor of *The New Statesman* used to publish his critical articles, said: "He would write them, his wife Dorothy would type them and Victor would go over them *with a red pen until they* became wonderful works of art. He was the best literary journalist of his generation without a doubt. He was a giant."

The novelist Ian McEwan said: "It's a very sad day." He noted that Pritchett saw comedy as having a "militant tragic edge" and said: "His stories were superbly crafted — very funny but often horribly revealing."

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Schoolboy hacker was 'No 1 threat' to US security

By Adam Fresco

Pryce: controlled defence computers

A DOUBLE BASS player at the Royal College of Music caused "more harm than the KGB" when he hacked *into* American defence and missile systems from his London bedroom.

Using equipment that cost £750 from his local High Street in Colindale, 16-year-old Richard Pryce *obtained the passwords* to download the computer records of the US Air Force and Lockheed defence *computers. He* gained access to the Air Force's Premier Command and Control Research Facility, then at Griffiths Air Force base in New York, which dealt with sensitive subjects such as artificial intelligence.

A Congressional report on computer attacks said: "A 16-year-old *British hacker* was seizing control of defence department computers on the direction of an un*known third party.*"

His solicitor said that officials believed he was being manipulated by an East European outfit. The security breach was also discussed in the Senate where Pryce *was accused of "causing more harm* than the KGB" and described as the No 1 threat to American security.

Pryce, now 19, was yesterday fined £1,200 by Bow Street magistrates, who accepted *his innocent motives after he* admitted 12 charges of gaining access to the computers. They ordered his comput*er equipment to be confiscated.*

The boy had been offered up to £30,000 by *publishers and Hollywood* film-makers had he fought the case. But he admitted the charge on the night of his arrest. He had also been sent £600 from one source, but had given it to charity.

Geoffrey Robertson QC, for Pryce, said the Pentagon had at first suspected a spy ring. Instead they found the schoolboy, leading an extraordinarily sheltered existence in the bosom of a loving family but *devoting himself* to an obsessive involvement with computers. "He made no profit and there was no subversion of defence *systems." Mr Robertson said.*

The Pentagon said yesterday that it was taking measures to stop its "systems coming under computer attack".

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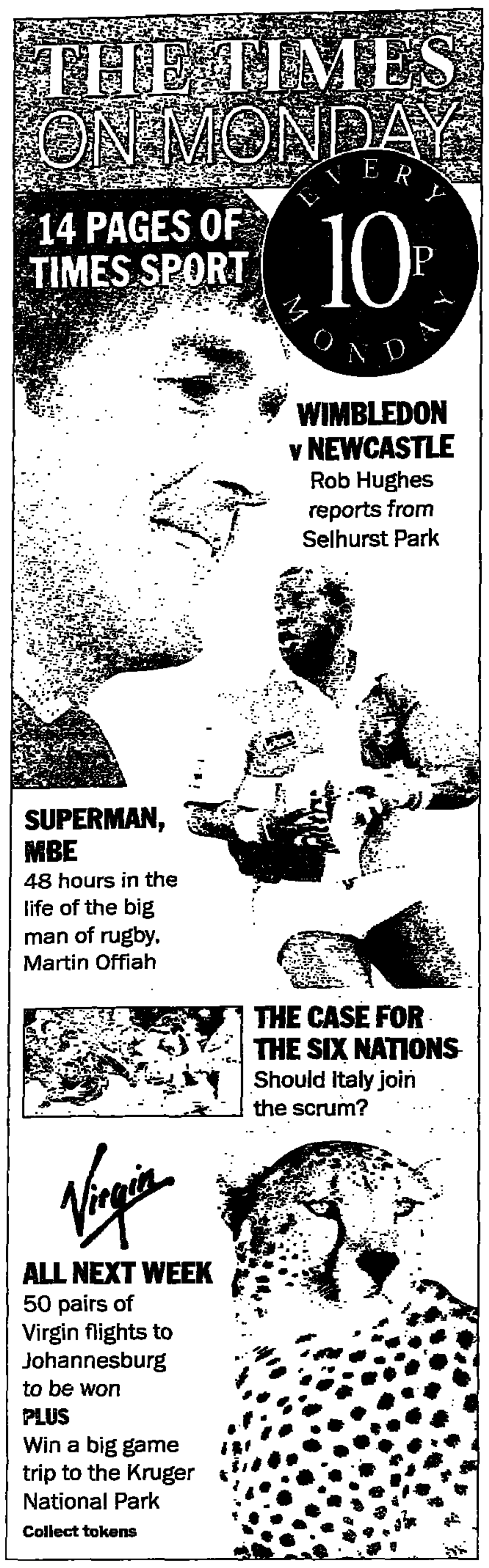

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Farewell the characters: here comes the cloned MP

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

AMID the gilded splendours of the Lords Chamber, the sumptuous pageantry of the Royal Prorogation was only slightly marred by the scream of one of their Lordships' hearing devices.

It seemed to have been sent haywire by feedback from the sound amplification system, and started an electronic caterwauling such as occurs when callers to radio phone-ins forget to switch off their wirelesses. At first nobody could tell where the noise was coming from. Scores of worried fingers began tapping scores of noble ears, to check antique hearing aids.

Attention then moved to a small, elderly baron. Attendants hastened to his assistance. A black box was removed from the confused peer. Accusing glances shot his way. It was like the scene in the lounge of an old people's home, when one of the inmates has inadvertently broken wind. But he recovered his composure.

And in pranced the Lord Chancellor and his playmates, milords Cranborne, Jenkins of Hillhead, Richard and Ampthill: a genteel line-dancing team, Lord Mackay of Clashfern pursued by a tiny lady train-bearer, and wearing a black cornish pastie on his head, the others capped in black boat-shaped creations, all of them knocking us cold in red and gold. After the usual nodding and cap-doffing — and to our astonishment — the officiating flunkey started speaking Norman French. "*La Reyne se remercie ses bons sujets, accepte leur benevolence, et ansi le veult.*" This introduced a string of titles of Bills to which Her Majesty had indicated assent.

"Flood Prevention & Land Drainage (Scotland) Act."

"*La Reyne le veult!*" Quite how fervently the Queen did wish it was capable of doubt. MPs, called by Black Rod to come and watch, stood and gazed from the doorway.

Some were a little misty-eyed. For this departing crowd included many who know they will never watch the ceremony as MPs again, and a few who do not.

I shall miss them. I shall miss Peter Shore (Lab, Bethnal Green and Stepney) who was among the spectators yesterday. He always carried an air of thoughtfulness and probity about him. I shall miss the redoubtable Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster), the last dame to commute by Morris Minor from Lancashire.

I shall miss Andrew Faulds (Lab, Warley E) the bearded soliloquiser with the Donald Wolfit stage voice; and I shall miss dear, loyal Jill Knight (C, Edgbaston) the most exotically dressed dame in memory, on whose blouses we have based more rude paragraphs on more drab days than I care to remember; but who never complains.

I shall miss the fine, old-fashioned speeches of Sir Russell Johnston (Lib Dem, Inverness Nairn & Lochaber). I shall even miss Mildred Gordon (Lab, Bow & Poplar). Unreconstructed leftwinger she may be, but she was her own woman and she didn't care what you thought.

Out go the characters: the awkward squadders and the absolute bricks, sages and fools, mavericks and loyalists ... the unsuppressibles, each of them defiantly individual. It may be that nostalgia clouds our judgment; that the familiar always looks distinctive, heterogeneous — the unfamiliar a homogenous blur. But it isn't just nostalgia. *Things are changing.*

On rolls May 1. In come the colour-me-beautiful set, the invasion of the bodysnatchers from Planet Vanilla. In come the manicured nails and lobotomised opinions. Deodorised, spayed, neutered, zipped, buttoned, on-message, ideology-screened and quirk-free, they even learn how to *walk* "for the cameras" now.

Victory of the video-coachers. Triumph of the orthodontists. I have seen the future, and it smells of hairspray.

Judge grants wish of family that coma woman should die

By Joanna Bale

A SEVERELY brain-damaged former university student is to return home from hospital to be cared for by her family in the last days of her life after a judge ruled yesterday that she should be allowed to die.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the High Court Family Division, said the woman's mother deserved "everybody's acknowledgment for everything that she has done, her courage is tremendous".

The 29-year-old woman, who has been in a coma for 18 months but whose condition falls short of a permanent vegetative state, will be allowed to starve to death. It was ruled that a feeding tube which had slipped from her body on Tuesday should not be reinserted.

Sir Stephen compared the woman to Tony Bland, the Hillsborough victim whose parents were granted their wish in 1993 that he should die. He said that, like Mr Bland, she was "existing in a state of a living death", and that he believed that "the time for merciful relief has arrived".

The court was told that the woman, known as Miss D, did not meet the strict guidelines for PVS as defined by the Royal College of Physicians. Her eyes appear to track moving objects, she flinches if a gesture is made and reacts to the feeling of ice on her body.

However, according to Professor David Chadwick, called by the NHS Trust, these were "primitive reflexes" within the nervous system. As the woman had "no prospect" of recovery but could live for another 30 years, her family wanted her to die "with dignity".

Sir Stephen said all the consultants, doctors, medical team and family were agreed that Miss D had no awareness of her surroundings or herself and all the evidence was that there was "no possibility of any meaningful life whatsoever". He said he did not feel he was altering the boundaries of who could be allowed to die because Miss D was in reality in PVS.

"It is a sad and tragic fact that this patient is suffering what is rightly termed a living death. I am driven to the conclusion in the totality of the evidence that it is in this patient's best interests to withdraw the artificial feeding and hydration which is keeping her body alive."

The judgment brought an immediate response from the anti-euthanasia group Alert, which said the "barbaric practice" of cutting off life support systems to brain-damaged patients should be made illegal.

Dr Peggy Norris, chair of the group, said: "Withholding food and fluids from a person capable of experiencing thirst has been used as a form of torture. To do this to a helpless patient is cruel."

A spokesman for the NHS trust which brought the application to the High Court said they had sought to act in the "best interests of the patient".

Sir Stephen also stressed that he did not believe his ruling would extend the list of cases in which a declaration for withdrawing life support could be considered. "The court recognises that no declaration to permit or sanction so extreme a step could possibly be granted where there is any real possibility of meaningful life continuing to exist."

Tony Bland's father Allan, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, welcomed the decision. He said: "We had had four years of it. We thought doing it would save other people going through as much pain and suffering as we went through, and perhaps it has."

Winston Churchill yesterday: "It will be a big wrench"

Churchill accepts defeat

WINSTON CHURCHILL, the grandson of the wartime leader, has abandoned hope of finding a seat before the election (Jill Sherman writes).

The millionaire Tory MP for Davyhulme, in Manchester, lost his seat during boundary changes and failed to win selection in five other constituencies. Although he does not rule out getting a seat during a by-election, he has made clear that he intends to return to a career in journalism.

Mr Churchill said: "I have been head down in the scrum trying to find a seat, but I have now given up. This has been my life for the last 27 years and it will be a big wrench to break away from it. I suspect there may be life beyond the division bell."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour puts child benefit under review

Labour is refusing to say whether it will scrap child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds, despite statements last autumn that savings from abolishing the allowance would be used to increase spending on education. Tony Blair's office said that the party was conducting a review of post-16 benefit as part of a much wider study which "would continue in government".

It emerged last month that the party was reconsidering the plan because of the electoral risks of penalising Middle England voters. A working party concluded that the money raised from hitting higher earners alone would have been too little to fund the plan for educational allowances.

Sinn Fein man enters contest

Martin McGuinness, of Sinn Fein, is to contest Mid-Ulster in the general election despite the decision by Roisin McAliskey to stand for the seat from prison, Gerry Adams, the party's president, indicated. He was responding to the announcement by Miss McAliskey, whose mother, Bernadette, held the seat from 1969 to 1974. The SDLP will also contest the seat.

Fewer false alarm callouts

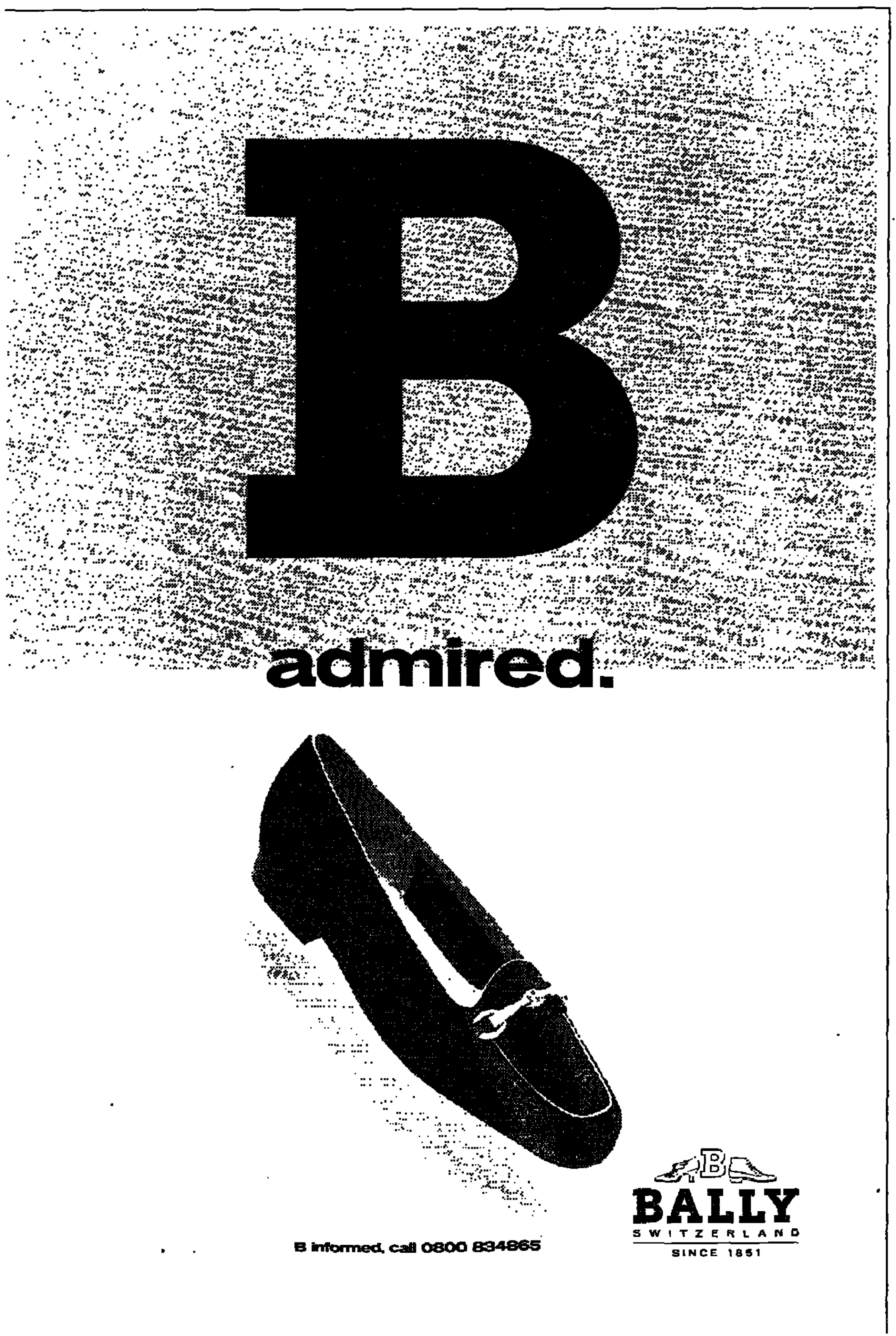
The number of false alerts to police stations from burglar alarms has fallen by 12 per cent after the decision by the Association of Chief Police Officers not to respond where alarms have registered seven false calls in a year. However, there were still more than a million wrong calls last year. An Acpo spokesman said that fewer false calls meant a saving of police time.

Police guard councillors

Glasgow City Chambers was guarded by 300 police officers yesterday as councillors met to make big cuts in the social services budget. The huge police presence was in expectation of mass protests similar to those which disrupted the city a week ago. Yesterday, however, the police comfortably outnumbered the dozen people who turned up to picket the morning meeting.

Gucci lover on cruelty charge

Penny Armstrong, 27, a former stable girl who is mother of two children by the late fashion millionaire Paolo Gucci, has been charged with causing unnecessary suffering to 13 Arab horses on his former estate at Rusper, West Sussex. Since Signor Gucci's death two years ago, Ms Armstrong and his former wife, Jenny, have been fighting for control of the estate.



B informed, call 0800 834865

Hamilton and Smith go home to rally support

By Russell Jenkins and Glen Owen

TIM SMITH and Neil Hamilton returned to their constituencies yesterday and attempted to salvage their political careers by rallying party supporters and confronting critics.

In Tatton, Cheshire, Mr Hamilton was preparing for the annual general meeting of his local Conservative Association, where some members have already declared that he should resign. Less than 200 miles away in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, Mr Smith was bracing himself for his local AGM where members were predicting he would come under heavy fire.

Mr Hamilton, accompanied by his ever-smiling wife Christine, was at a lunch meeting of the women's association. He said: "They have been smothering me with love, which is a very pleasurable experience. They are supportive. They know the truth. They have known me for 14 years. I am unsoiled if not unbloodied and certainly unbowed."

Mr Hamilton may not find love and support flowing from every quarter. Robin Estridge, leader of the Conservative party in Alderley Edge, has already stated his belief that Mr Hamilton should resign. But Peter McDowell, the MP's agent, said that a move to deselect him from the floor was not possible because members have to give 28 days for items on the agenda.

In Beaconsfield, Mr Smith managed to retain a smile as he visited Iver Heath County First School, and a child unaware of the controversy asked: "Do you have any friends where you work?"

Later, after meeting his constituency agent Philip Dunville, Mr Smith said: "I am going to fight on. I am going to fight the election campaign here, on national issues and local issues."

Deidrie Holloway, who chairs the constituency association, said: "There is no question of his position being threatened. We have learned nothing new from these scurrilous reports."

But a lifelong Tory supporter, John Hetherington, 55, owner of The George Hotel in Beaconsfield, said: "Is he asking questions to line his own pockets or for the constituency? I am disgusted that anyone would consider cash for questions. It disillusions me incredibly."

Hamilton defence, page 11

Sleaze

Continued from page 1

services. He was never paid in cash.

The other three were all officers of the Tory backbench trade and industry committee: Sir Michael Grylls, then the chairman, Mr Hamilton, the vice-chairman, and Mr Smith, the secretary.

Sir Michael, during his evidence, was asked whether it was true that Mr Greer would say to clients they should give him the business because he had access to officers of the Tory trade and industry committee. He replied: "I should think every lobbyist does that. I do not think there is anything esssentially improper in that because of the whole point about politics is networking and learning things."

Mr Greer is accused of being paid £5,000 cash on a quarterly basis which he collected in envelopes, according to a member of the Al Fayed staff who is not named. Mr Greer has consistently denied the allegations.

The papers seen by *The Times* also include a memorandum from Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, which details a face-to-face meeting with Mr Hamilton and Richard Ryder, the then chief whip. It said: "I pointed out that the Chief Whip and I had asked whether there was any other interest which had not been declared or anything else of which he was aware which could be of embarrassment to the Government and he said there was not."

Church leaders urge election forums

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

RELIGIOUS leaders in London have urged churches to debate unemployment, homelessness and poverty in the run-up to the general election.

A letter from Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, the Anglican Bishop of London, and other leaders advises churches to unite to organise constituency meetings at which the "important issues can be discussed with parliamentary candidates in a mature and reasoned fashion".

They also urge everyone eligible to cast a vote: "It is right for us, as Christian leaders, to encourage full participation in the election."

No party political allegiance is stated, but the letter is in line with the teachings of Christian socialism, a movement thought to have strongly influenced the Labour leader Tony Blair.

The church leaders urge Christians throughout London to debate the ethics of abortion legislation and genetic engineering. Hospitals, the youth service, education and poverty should also be considered, they say. They call for a "fair taxation system, one which does not unduly burden enterprise and wealth creation yet contributes adequately to the common good".

They also call for justice for asylum-seekers, and suggest that parliamentary candidates be asked questions on racial integration and protection of the environment.

The signatories, who include the Rev Douglas McBain, of the Baptist Union, and Dr Io Smith, of the Black Christian Concerns Group, add: "We ask you to lead prayers for those involved in this election. The desire to serve the people of a constituency and country in Parliament is a noble one. Yet an election is a time of strain for them and for their families."

Mr McBain said: "It would not be right to interpret this as a tract for the Labour Party. The basic call is to stimulate debate and to encourage people to vote and to pray for those seeking to enter Parliament."

Mr McBain said the two main parties could both lay claim to some of the issues highlighted. "It would be true to say that these issues have been taken up by the Christian Socialist Movement but I would have thought that John Major in a religious mood would want to identify with many of them."

هكذا من الاعلام

Listerine put driver over the drink limit

THE Crown Prosecution Service has won permission to challenge the decision of a magistrates' court not to ban a driver found to be "over the limit" after consuming an excess of mouthwash.

Robert Jowle, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, was breathalysed by police after his Ford Fiesta swerved on a bend of the A5127 at Shenstone, Staffordshire, and crossed the road. At Lichfield Magistrates' Court he admitted drink-driving, but said he had become addicted to Listerine mouthwash, unaware that it contained alcohol.

Last November the magistrates fined him £500, ordered him to pay £100 costs and endorsed his licence with nine penalty points. But they decided not to impose an otherwise mandatory driving disqualification because of his ignorance of the link between Listerine and alcohol.

Yesterday, at the High Court, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Curtis said they had "no hesitation" in allowing the CPS to appeal against the decision on the ground that Mr Jowle could not have failed to realise that Listerine contained alcohol, "in view of his familiarity with its effects".

Although Mr Jowle insisted he had not knowingly had any alcohol for more than a year, an analysis at Lichfield police station registered 94 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath — the legal limit is 35mcg. The magistrates heard that He had become addicted to Listerine and had never associated the "lift" it gave him with alcohol. He did not feel out of control while driving.

The mouthwash was found to contain 26.9 per cent alcohol by volume. There was no direct reference to the presence of alcohol on the bottle. Mr Jowle, who sought further help from Alcoholics Anonymous, has given up drinking Listerine.

'I'm still torn between two men. My life has been a nightmare'

Sex triangle wife to marry lodger shot by husband

By Kathryn Knight and Michael Horsnell

A JEALOUS husband was facing jail last night as his wife said that she would marry the lodger he shot. Virginia Potter said she planned to marry Keith Thomas, the lodger badly injured by her impotent husband Hans.

Potter, 64, was told by Mr Justice Brown at the Old Bailey that he faced a custodial sentence after being found guilty of unlawful wounding and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life. Potter, who was cleared of attempted murder, shot Mr Thomas, 52, after returning to the house and finding him and Mrs Potter, 58, in a dishevelled state, with the curtains to the spare bedroom drawn.

Potter confronted them and then fired his .22 Winchester rifle through the bathroom door at the couple's home in Holmbury St Mary, near Dorking in Surrey. Mr Thomas was hit in the neck and severely wounded.

Mrs Potter, who now shares her home with Mr Thomas, said yesterday: "My world has fallen apart. I'm still torn between two men. My whole life has been a nightmare since this happened. I've been portrayed as a wanton woman. Everyone knows my private life now."

She said she did not blame her common-law husband, whom she calls Ned, for what had happened. "I don't hold any malice towards Ned. My main worry now is for Keith. The operation to remove the bullet is very dangerous and I'm scared I may lose him." Mr Thomas said: "I don't hate Ned for what he did. I just feel sorry for him."

In his summing-up, the judge said that Potter, a commodities trader, deserved sympathy for facing "an intolerable situation in his own home". Potter had been living with Virginia Potter for 12 years and the couple had had a "stable and loving relationship".

Financial problems during the 1980s forced the Potters to take in lodgers. One of the men who answered their advertisement was Mr Thomas, an electrical engineer, who not only moved in but began an affair with his landlord's wife. Potter eventually agreed to tolerate the relationship.

"Mr Potter was prepared to turn a blind eye to the affair, as Mrs Potter had certain needs in that department, that Potter could not fulfil," Simon Wild, for the prosecution, told the court. Potter said: "I asked them to be discreet because it hurt so very much."

On the evening of the shooting in August last year, the three had dined together and consumed four bottles of wine before Potter set off to his club in the village. On his return he said that he felt he had been badly let down. He accused Mr Thomas of having sex "and he admitted it".

Mr Thomas denied he had had sexual intercourse with Mrs Potter because he was too drunk, but Potter warned him that he was going to shoot him and went upstairs to his bedroom to fetch his rifle, the court was told. From the stairs, he fired a bullet through the bathroom door, hitting Mr Thomas in the back of the neck.

The bullet fragmented and lodged beside his spine. Surgeons decided it was too dangerous to operate, but Mr Thomas, who suffers headache and dizziness, is hoping to have it removed. Potter, who said he was unsteady on his feet because of diabetes, said the gun went off accidentally when he tripped coming down the stairs. He said he had "absolutely no idea" that his lodger was in the bathroom.

The court was told that a year earlier Potter fired several shots into the bedroom wall as a warning after finding the couple in bed. The incident was never reported to police, and Potter claimed in court that he had no intention of harming Mr Thomas on this occasion.

Giving evidence, he said he was prepared to tolerate his domestic situation out of concern for his wife. "I am a realist about life. I suppose I did not want to make my wife into a frustrated old lady," he said.

Potter, who has been living at his son's home in Wimbledon, southwest London, since he was released on bail, will be sentenced on April 18. Yesterday Mrs Potter said: "Ned knows I am with Keith now and he doesn't like it."

Potter still visits his mother, who lives next door, and went on holiday to France with Mrs Potter in the run-up to the trial. Potter, who was released on bail, declined to comment outside court.

Potter: had asked couple to keep the affair discreet

Keith Thomas and Virginia Potter: their affair started after the Potters took in lodgers

Well-fed dogs save day for parrots

By Adrian Lee

A GANG of parrot thieves were caught after guard dogs spurned their offer of tinned dog food. As the five men bundled the parrots into nylon bags, the owner of the Blean Bird Park, near Canterbury, Kent, was alerted by the two dogs.

The men, from Liverpool, who were caught as they tried to drive away, were all jailed for between one and two years by Maidstone Crown Court yesterday. Joseph Thompson, 34, and Leslie Parry, 32, both unemployed, of Croxteth; Nigel Poyner, 31, a dog food exporter, of Sefton; and Raymond Bennett, 30, unemployed, of Croxteth, had all denied theft. Paul Carmichael, 33, a taxi driver, of Fazakerley, admitted theft.

Cairns Nelson, for the prosecution, said that the men had arrived at the park by car and had cut their way through fences. They had used bolt-cutters to break padlocks to enclosures holding 400 birds, worth up tp £1,000 each.

"They were in the process of putting the birds in the bags when they were disturbed." Mr Nelson told the court that the dog food they brought with them failed to pacify the tethered rottweilers.

Jailing the men, Judge David Croft, QC, said: "I am quite unable to distinguish one from the other because you all persist in lying about the matter to the bitter end. But it is quite clear it was a planned job. There must have been a reconnaissance and you came fully equipped.

"The profits were going to be very large indeed and well into five figures, perhaps more. I cannot say which of you are organisers and which are not. But you were all operating as a team. There must be sentences of some substance."

Thompson, Parry and Bennett were jailed for two years, Poyner for 21 months and Carmichael for a year.

Flowers and tears at Billie-Jo service

By Emma Wilkins

SCHOOLFRIENDS of Billie-Jo Jenkins wept yesterday at a memorial service held just hours after her foster father was further remanded in custody charged with her murder.

The emotional service in a sports hall at Helenswood comprehensive school, Hastings, was attended by 550 girls who brought hundreds of bunches of spring flowers. The popular 13-year-old, who was her year's representative to the school council, was bludgeoned to death with a metal tent spike in the garden of her home in Hastings five weeks ago.

Sion Jenkins, 39, who was charged with her murder last week, appeared before magistrates to be remanded in custody for a month. Mr Jenkins, who is also charged with obtaining his teaching post by falsifying his academic qualifications, has been suspended as deputy headmaster of the town's William Parker Comprehensive School for Boys pending the criminal proceedings.

The Rev Roger Gray, the Jenkins's family Baptist minister, attended the remand hearing four hours before addressing the memorial sevice. He asked the sobbing pupils to pray with him: "Take from us those things that we need to forget about the manner of Billie-Jo's death, and enrich the good things that we will be able to look back on in the months and years ahead."

After listening to songs performed by some of Billie-Jo's friends, Mr Gray said: "You have reflected a genuine and lovely appreciation of a lovely young lady. Nothing can take away from what she has contributed to our lives."

Among the flowers, one message read: "You were the life and soul of the party." Another said: "To Billie-Jo — I hope you can find my grandfather. He will look after you."

Billie-Jo: foster father accused of her murder

Sun is springboard for early arrivals

By Michael Hornsby

SPRING has arrived early this year for migrating birds and butterflies. Sandmartins, chiffchaffs, redstarts, stone curlews and even swallows began returning from winter quarters in Africa and the Mediterranean early in March, up to a fortnight earlier than usual.

"There has been mild weather all along the migration routes," Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, said. "It has been a particularly good year for early chiffchaffs. Some were around in February. It is a big bonus for them if they can get back early because they can bag the best breeding territories."

Butterflies have emerged sooner than usual from hibernation, according to Patrick Roper, of Butterfly Conservation. "The warm weather has drawn them out. Small tortoiseshells, peacocks and brimstones are already abundant."

Jim Keesing, senior scientific officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, said: "It has been a fairly standard spring, with good shows of magnolia, flowering cherries, forsythia, daffodils and crocuses. If the weather stays warm, we should see bluebells before the end of April." However, Richard Blackburn, of Lingarden, a daffodil-growing co-operative in Spalding, Lincolnshire, said: "It has been a funny year for daffodils. We began harvesting just in time for Mothering Sunday on March 9, but in other years we have started in February."

Exactly when spring starts is a moot point. "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?," wrote Shelley. But just how far behind?

According to the Meteorological Office, spring always arrives on March 1 and finishes on May 31, whatever the weather and Mother Nature might say. This is little more than a statistical convenience, enabling the year to be divided neatly into four seasons of three months each.

The British Astronomical Association fixes the start of spring in the northern hemisphere at the vernal equinox, which this year was at 1355 GMT on Thursday. It will last until the summer solstice, which occurs at 0820 GMT on June 21. Confusingly, June 21 is popularly regarded as midsummer day. Summer will run until the autumn equinox at 2356 GMT on September 22.

Crime novels make killing at auction

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

FIRST editions of novels are fetching huge prices within a year or two of publication. Sales for modern novelists are particularly buoyant, with dealers reporting that people are buying books for investment rather than to read.

The demand for crime fiction is insatiable. A private collector paid £1,323 on Thursday for a first edition of Dick Francis's first thriller Dead Cert, which was published in 1962 at 15 shillings (75p). The £300 estimate at Bloomsbury Book Auctions in London reflected that its dustjacket was showing its age; pristine copies sell for as much as £3,000.

Jane Adams's The Greenway and Priscilla Masters's Winding Up The Serpent, each published in 1995, sold for up to £90 and £150 respectively. Minette Walters's The Icehouse, published in 1992 at £12.99, is selling for as much as £700. A rare hardback of Irvine Walsh's 1994 Trainspotting, which inspired the film, can excite collectors into parting with up to £1,000.

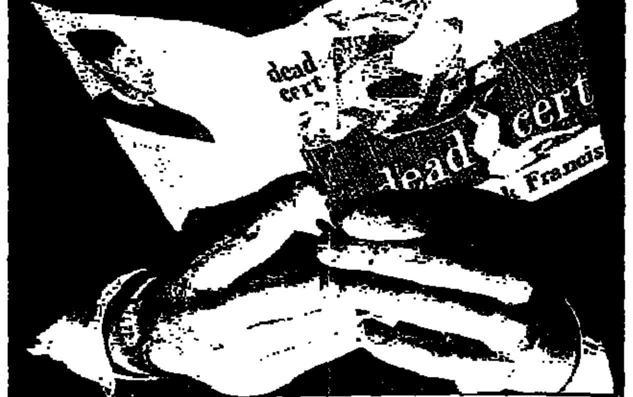
Christiaan Jonkers, an Oxford specialist in rare books, said: "We are seeing a mini-boom in ultra-modern first editions." People frequently asked him whether a purchase was a good investment: "I advise collectors not to buy purely for investment, but to enjoy the book."

Authors whose work is known from television, such as Colin Dexter of Inspector Morse fame, are all the more collectible. As most contemporary authors have signing sessions to promote their books, autographed copies make little difference to the value.

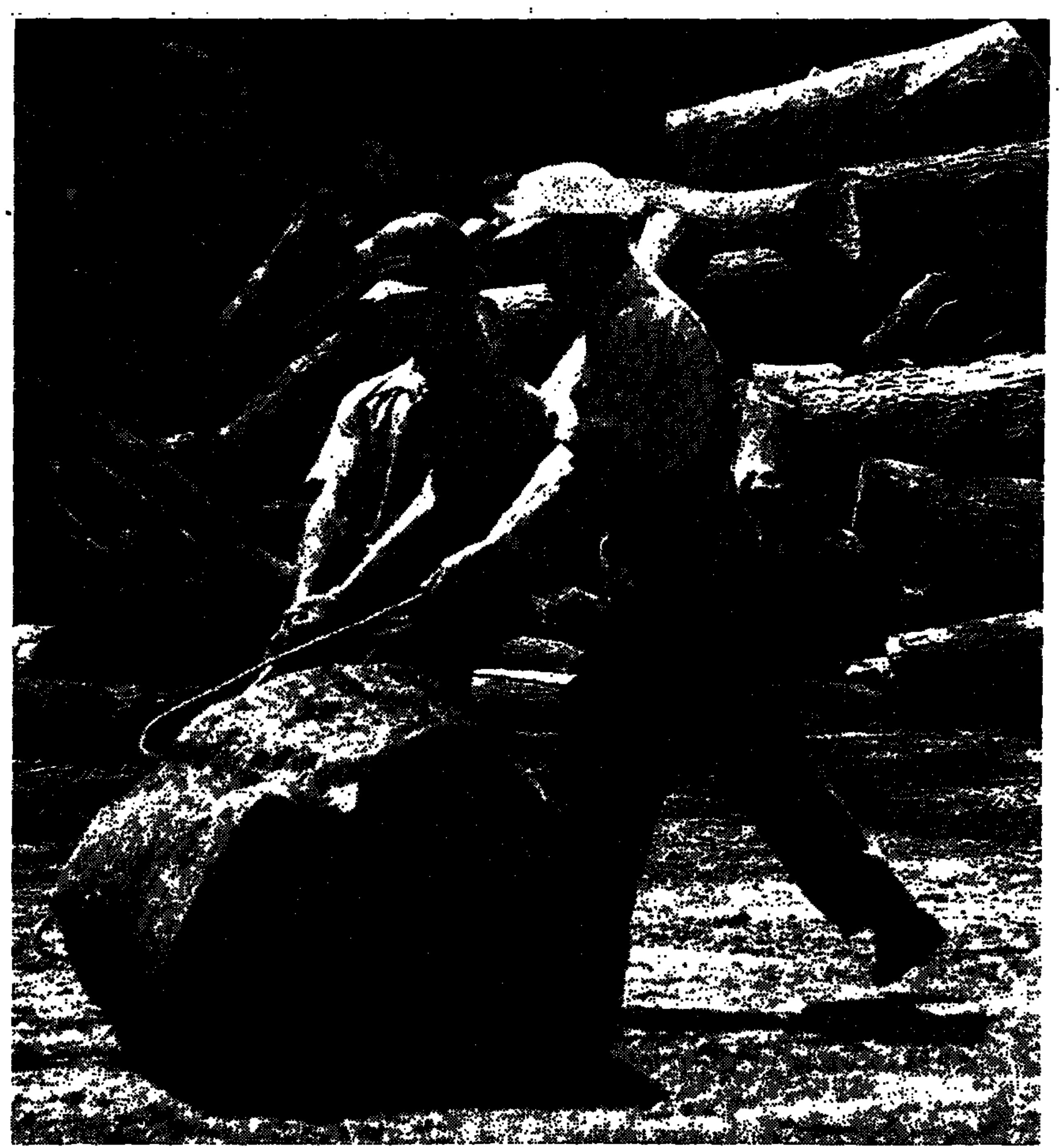
Stephen Dick, manager of Nigel Williams Rare Books in central London, said he had sold a copy of Trainspotting for £1,000. It was one of 100 hardback versions produced for libraries after the original 3,000 paperbacks, which resell for about £195. A copy of Nick Hornby's 1994 Fever Pitch had sold for £300.

A copy of Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children sold at Bloomsbury Book Auctions on Thursday for £150. Rupert Powell, a director of Bloomsbury, said that collectors were seeking "the high points of 20th-century literature and will pay extraordinary prices to get them".

First editions of Francis's Dead Cert make rare appearances on the market — perhaps once a year. Competition for Dead Cert was fierce. Francis, the jockey turned crime writer who has written a thriller a year since Dead Cert, said yesterday: "If only I had kept 20 then, when they were first out. I had to buy one at over $2,000."



Early Dick Francis books are winners in salerooms



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EVERY WEEK OVER A THOUSAND NHS OPERATIONS ARE CANCELLED.

Last year, 52,331 NHS operations were cancelled. And it wasn't because the patients suddenly got better. Government underfunding has meant that one in six hospital beds have been lost since 1990. There are 50,000 fewer nurses than in 1990. No wonder so many people have been waiting over a year and a half for treatment. Government cuts are destroying the National Health Service. As you queue up to vote on polling day, spare a thought for the 72 year-old lady who needed an urgent cancer operation. She waited ten weeks.

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Injunction over Beatles auction

McCartney takes legal step to block Penny Lane sale

By John Shaw and Adrian Lee

SIR Paul McCartney obtained an emergency injunction at the High Court yesterday to stop the lyrics to the Beatles song *Penny Lane* being sold at auction.

The first handwritten draft of the song, a No 1 single in 1966, would have been one of the top lots in a sale at Bonhams of Beatles items. Bidding will take place in Japan and London today and the song lyrics had been expected to fetch up to £50,000.

Sir Paul obtained another injunction last year against Lily Evans, the widow of the group's road manager Mal Evans, after she tried to sell the lyrics of *With A Little Help from My Friends* at Sotheby's. The former Beatle took the view that the lyrics were his work and that no one else should benefit financially.

The owner of the *Penny Lane* lyrics, which were scribbled in blue ink on both sides of a piece of yellow paper, is unknown. The first side contains 16 lines of the song and the reverse shows 11 lines of the concluding verse and chorus. Bonhams said it would not be contesting the injunction.

Pop sales have led to problems for auction houses as specialists try to verify the authenticity of memorabilia from owners cashing in on nostalgia for the Sixties.

Alex Crum Ewing, one of the specialists in charge of the sale, said yesterday that he assumed that the reason that Sir Paul had sought an injunction was "because he believes he is still the person who owns the lyrics and he never gave them away. That is a reasonable claim to make."

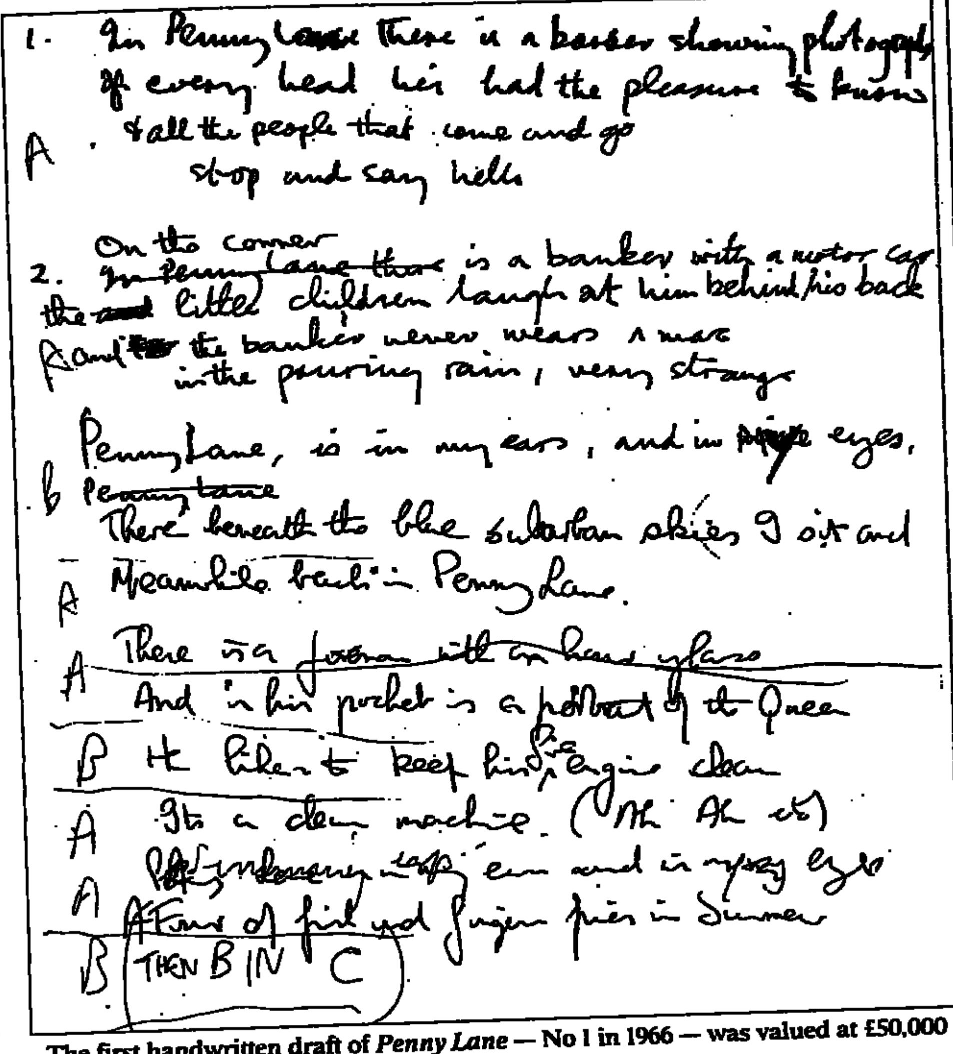
There was no question of the lyrics being a fake, Mr Crum Ewing said. They will remain in the firm's safe until the matter is resolved. Bonhams was "just the piggy in the middle".

Today's auction will be in Japan but bids, for about 300 lots, will be relayed from London where proceedings will be shown on a large screen. Yesterday, people were already queueing on the pavement in Tokyo, hoping to get seats.

Various amendments, some purely technical, have been made to a total of 33 items. An autograph by John Lennon has been withdrawn together with two guitars signed by George Harrison. Another instrument, described in the catalogue as "Paul McCartney's custom Hofner 500/1 violin bass-guitar" has been the subject of another amendment. It had been expected to make between £100,000 £150,000 and was said to have been owned by Sir Paul "throughout much of the Beatles' career". But Sir Paul's representative has told the saleroom that the singer "has no recollection of ever having been presented with the guitar you describe or of ever playing it". There was no comment from Sir Paul yesterday.

Penny Lane is a real street in the Beatles' hometown of Liverpool, and the barber's shop mentioned in the song is being sold in the auction for £195,000. It goes under the hammer with vacant possession upon completion of the sale but an amendment points out that the tenancy of two flats above the premises has been granted for three months and expires on May 9. Entrance in London is by catalogue only.

Sir Paul cannot recall guitar described as his



BONHAMS

1. In Penny ~~Lane~~ there is a barber showing photographs
of every head he's had the pleasure to know
A . & all the people that come and go
stop and say hello

On the corner
2. ~~In Penny Lane there~~ is a banker with a motor car
the ~~and~~ little children laugh at him behind his back
A and ~~the~~ the banker never wears a mac
in the pouring rain, very strange

Penny Lane, is in my ears, and in ~~my~~ eyes,
B ~~Penny Lane~~
There beneath the blue suburban skies I sit and
A Meanwhile back in Penny Lane.
A ~~There is a fireman with an hour glass~~
A And in his pocket is a portrait of the Queen
B He likes to keep his fire engine clean
A It's a clean machine. (Ah Ah etc)
A [illegible] ears and in my eyes
A A Four of fish and finger pies in Summer
B THEN B IN C

The first handwritten draft of *Penny Lane* — No 1 in 1966 — was valued at £50,000

Spector wins fight over pop classic

By Joanna Bale

PHIL SPECTOR, the multi-millionaire American record producer, won a High Court action yesterday over the rights to his debut hit, *To Know Him is to Love Him*.

Mr Spector, who was not in court, will receive hundreds of thousands of pounds in royalties after winning back his copyright interest in the single, which has sold more than a million copies. An inquiry into the amount due will be held. The song, written when he was 18, launched his career and is now a karaoke favourite 39 years on.

Spector: he can expect substantial royalties

Mr Justice Ferris ruled in favour of the reclusive 56-year-old's claims against Bourne Music, a British company. Mr Spector, who lives in California, had argued that a 28-year copyright assignment under American law, in which rights were transferred to the publishers Warman Music and a licence granted to Bourne, expired in 1986. Bourne, which refused to accept that it no longer had rights, had not paid any royalties since the start of 1987.

The judge ruled that, when the 28-year term expired, the copyright "reverted to Mr Spector in the same way that one speaks of land reverting to a freeholder on the expiration of a lease. No actual transfer . . . is required."

During an earlier hearing, the judge, who did not recall the song, was offered a recording of it. The song was first recorded by the Teddy Bears, though Mr Spector played almost every instrument, and reached the top of the American charts in 1958. It went to No 2 in Britain the next year.

A member of Mr Spector's legal team said: "There was an important principle at stake and I am sure Mr Spector will be very pleased."

Steele seeks more than sixpence

By Eve-Ann Prentice

TOMMY STEELE, the song and dance man who endeared himself to millions in the film *Half A Sixpence*, is selling his mansion in southwest London for between £5 million and £10 million.

Montrose House, at Petersham, near Richmond upon Thames, has been his family home for nearly 30 years. The millionaire, now 61, who grew up in a terraced house in Bermondsey, south London, is looking for somewhere smaller for himself and his wife, Anne. Their only child, Emma, is 27.

Ian Stewart, of Savills, the estate agent handling the sale, said yesterday: "This is the finest house to come on the market in the area for many years." Montrose House was built in the late 17th century for Sir Thomas Jenner, a Roman Catholic political lawyer. It is named after Caroline Maria, Dowager Duchess of Montrose, who bought the mansion in the 1830s.

The house, with swimming pool and squash court to keep the fitness fanatic in Steele happy, has six main bedrooms, a cottage annexe with two more bedrooms and a staff flat. It stands behind wrought-iron gates in two and a half acres of grounds.

Teenage burglars took £1m

By Paul Wilkinson

A TEENAGE burglary gang were all in youth custody last night after a two-year crime wave that involved property worth £1 million.

The last member to be locked up, a 16-year-old boy, was sent to a young offenders' institution for 21 months after admitting four break-ins in Oldham, near Manchester, and asking for 200 more to be taken into consideration.

He showed no emotion as he was sentenced. The rest of the gang are already in custody. Superintendent Graham Fox, head of Chadderton police in Oldham, said: "Prison seems to hold no fears for this young man. It is where all his friends are and he will be quite looking forward to seeing them again."

The seven youths who were responsible for a total of about 1,000 raids became known as the Hamburglars because, within minutes, they had sold their hauls cheaply for cash to buy hamburgers, clothes and trainers. Property worth up to £1,000 was often sold for as little as £20. Much of it has never been recovered.

Robert Elias, for the youth sentenced yesterday, said: "The scale of offending by this diminutive schoolboy almost beggars comprehension."

Wine can leave you nothing but gums

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

WINE tasting can eat your teeth away to nothing, dentists warn experts today.

Researchers from Guy's hospital describe the case of a wine merchant whose teeth were so eroded that his fillings protruded from his gums like metal pegs. The 52-year-old merchant had tasted an average of 30 wines a day since 1959, rinsing the liquid around the mouth to reach every corner of the palate before spitting it out.

Shahid Chaudhry and colleagues, who report the case in the *British Dental Journal*, say that the habit of sloshing the liquid around the mouth probably accounted for the damage to his teeth. The problem is not decay caused by bacteria, but acid in the wine eating away the enamel.

When the merchant first went to Guy's in 1982, it was calculated that his teeth had suffered 245,000 acidic exposures over the previous 23 years. When he retired in 1989, the tooth erosion stopped.

Mr Chaudhry said: "Our advice to anyone who tastes or drinks a lot of wine — or other alcoholic drink — is that they should clean their teeth thoroughly twice a day and go to their dentist regularly for a check-up."

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Call for Holocaust victims to share £39m of Nazi gold

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

VICTIMS of the Holocaust should receive gold valued at £39 million as a final payment for Jewish treasures looted by the Nazis and recovered after *the Second* World War, a report said yesterday. The five and a half tonnes of gold *had* been earmarked for ten countries whose treasuries were *plundered* by the Nazis.

The Holocaust Education Trust *said* the *gold should* go to the victims, their families or groups caring for them. The trust's report said that the haul of gold consisted of jewellery, *religious* artefacts and gold teeth taken from individual *Jews and melted down.*

The Tripartite Gold Commission set up at the end of the Second World War by Britain, France and the United States had the task of dividing the loot. Gold from the treasuries of defeated countries was due to be paid back, but personal *possessions* were meant to go towards helping refugees.

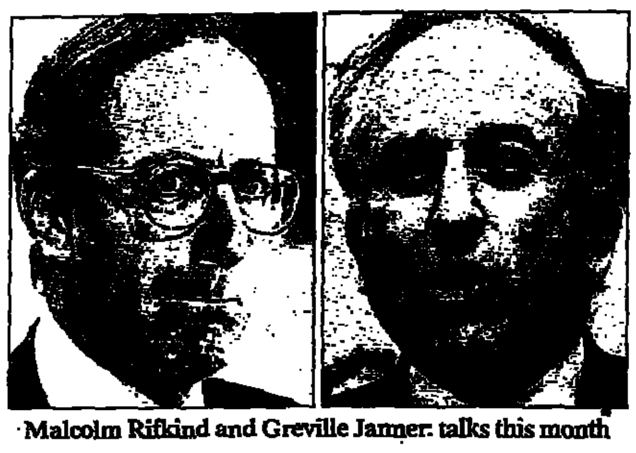
The trust said that many of the personal belongings had been melted down into gold bars and went instead to governments such as Albania and Poland. Greville Janner, chairman of the trust and retiring Labour MP for Leicester West, *said: "People who* lost most from Nazi brutality were denied a proportion of the restitution owed to them.

"This gold belongs to the victims of Nazism and should be handed over directly or indirectly to the sufferers from Nazism or to their heirs or to the organisations that care for them. Not one gold bar has *been distributed to any indi*vidual or the family of any *individual who suffered."* The report said it was not necessarily an intention by governments to deprive refugees but, in the chaos at the end of the war, errors were made. The *report admits, however,* that the origin of individual gold bars *could* now *never* be proved. It added that even if all the remaining gold was returned to victims, it would have been less than the amount seized from individuals.

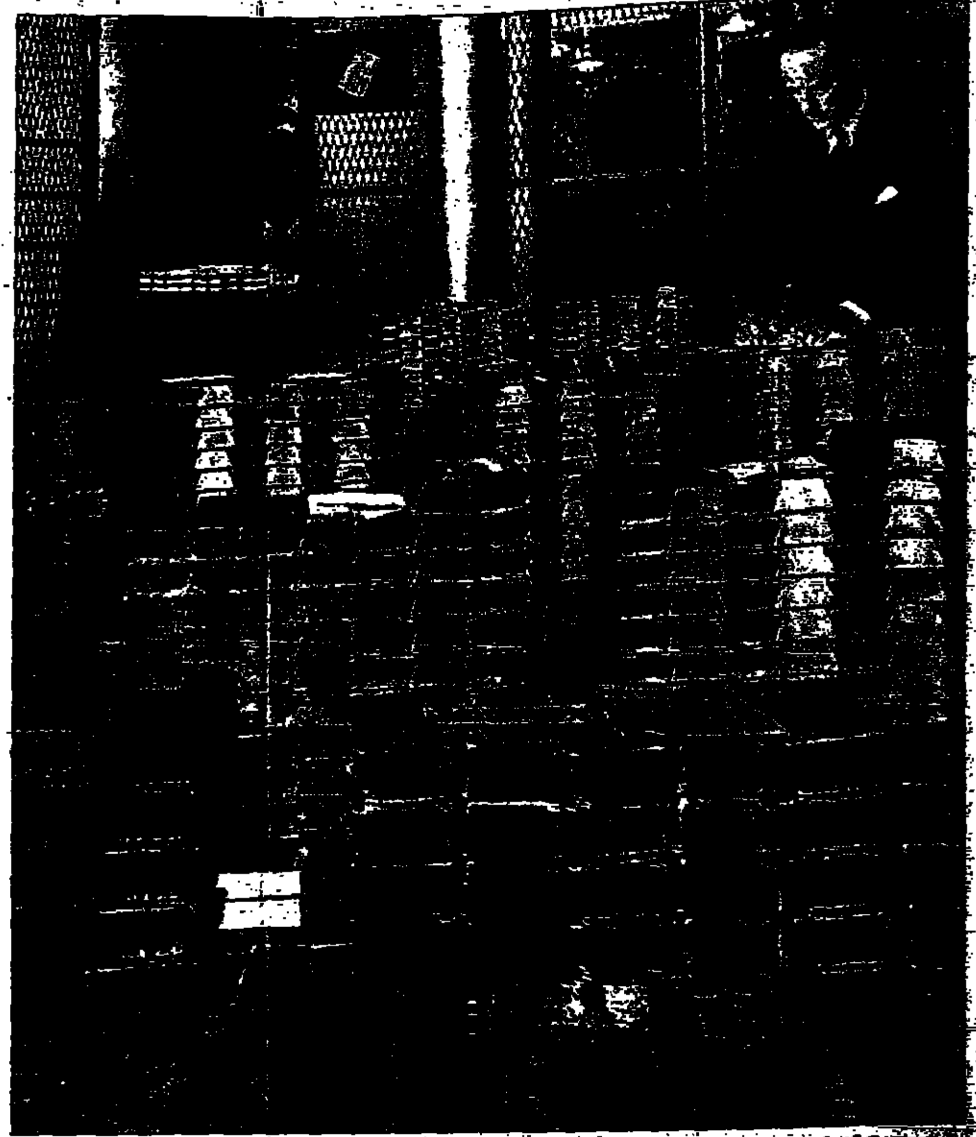
Last month, after pressure from campaigners, Britain and America, which are storing the gold, *agreed to* freeze distribution of what was left. *Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign* Secretary, told Mr Janner *earlier this month that it was* impossible to ascertain what went into the commission's gold pool. He was sympathetic to the idea that individuals should benefit and promised that no decisions would be made until research was complete.

The trust believes the gold should be split between the World Jewish Restitutional Organisation and a non-Jewish organisation that would help other Nazi victims. Mr Janner said if the three Allied countries agreed to hand the *gold to victims, the ten recipi*ent countries — Albania, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, The Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland and Yugoslavia — would follow.

The trust's demands were echoed by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, which said it was unfair for governments to benefit from Jewish losses. Neville Nagler, the board's director-general, wants an inquiry into the source of the gold. "Money could be made available to Holocaust victims particularly *in eastern Eur*ope, where organisations are trying to develop communities for Jews," he said.



Malcolm Rifkind and Greville Janner: talks this month



Gold bullion in the Bank of England recovered from Germany at the end of the war

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Counter attack as Tesco sets great store on Ireland

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

IN THE year that the Irish Republic celebrates the 75th anniversary of its independence from Britain, the nation is under economic invasion from across the Irish Sea.

British supermarket chains and leading high-street stores are storming in to transform town and city centres. Tesco snapped up 70 stores from the Republic's Quinnsworth and *Crazy Prices* chain *yesterday* in the latest example of the *changes* which threaten to fuel anti-English sentiment.

The centres of Dublin and Cork, the republic's two largest cities, have started to resemble British cities. Grafton Street, one of the *smartest place to shop in the* heart of Dublin, boasts a large branch of Marks & Spencer close to Laura Ashley, Warehouse and HMV.

The British march down Irish high streets has raised *alarm bells in political circles,* with fears over the survival of local chains. Mary Harney, the leader of the opposition Progressive Democrats, said: "We are now witnessing a British invasion of the retail market. Walk through Patrick Street in Cork and you think you are in England. Walk through the new Jervis shopping centre in Dublin and you know you are in England."

Ms Harney insisted that she was not objecting to competion, but feared that the new chains *would prefer* to use suppliers in Britain. "We can't tell the Brits to go home," she said, but called for laws to ensure that one chain could not control more than [illegible] per cent of the market.

The Irish economy is growing at 7 per cent a year. British retailers can often provide cheaper and better products than Irish stores because they have to survive in a more competitive market.

Traditionalists in Dublin were appalled when M&S, *which had traded from a dull* modern block on Grafton Street, recently took over the creeking but charming premises of Brown Thomas, Ireland's answer to Harvey Nichols, for a £40 million *renovation that retained only* the 19th-century shopfront.

Brown Thomas now has a modern shop across the road. Within a short walk of Grafton Street, the Jervis centre has the republic's first branches of Debenhams and Boots.

Business, page 29

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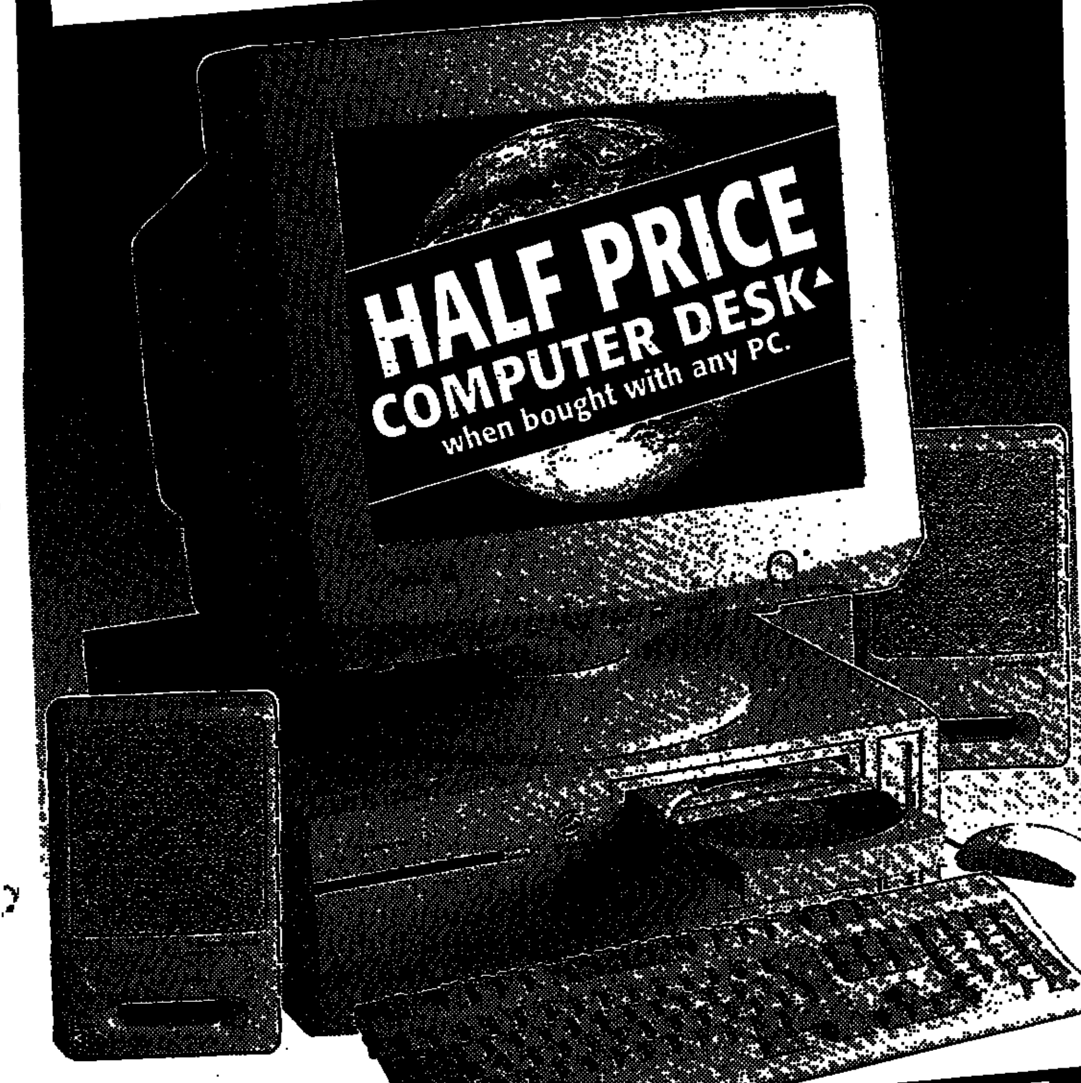

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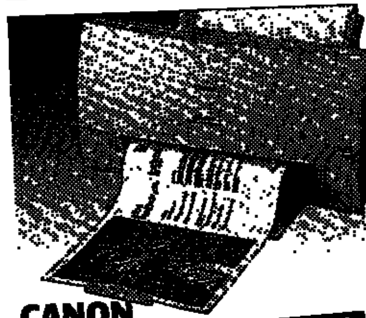

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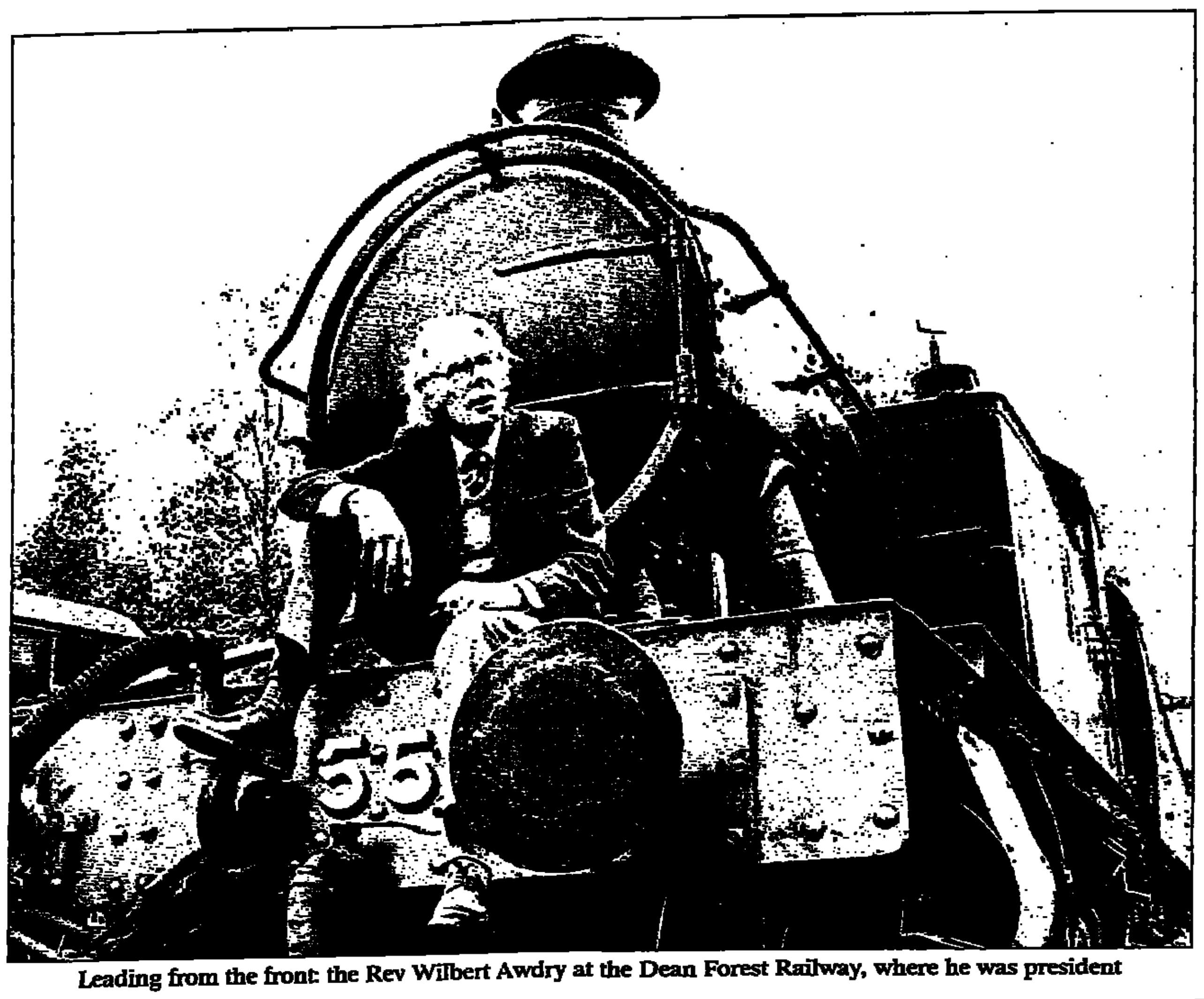
Cleric who created Thomas the Tank Engine dies at 85



Leading from the front: the Rev Wilbert Awdry at the Dean Forest Railway, where he was president

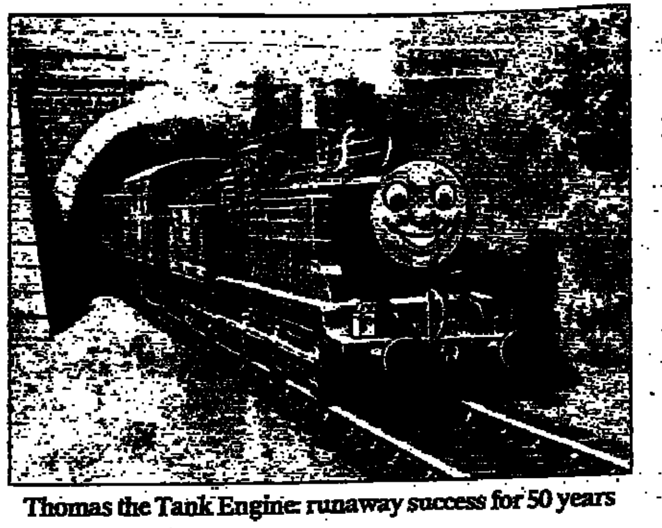
By Lin Jenkins

THE Rev W. Awdry had his own explanation for the reason why many Anglican clergymen were so fascinated by steam trains. He said: "Both parties are still the best means of getting people to their destination."

Mr Awdry died yesterday, aged 85. His creation, Thomas the Tank Engine, has yet to reach a final destination. The plucky little engine known to generations of children around the world will continue to have adventures written by Mr Awdry's son, Christopher, for whom the first stories were created.

The characters and simple, yet compelling, storylines have thrilled parents and children in equal measure for more than half a century, rooted in the clergyman's strong moral sense. In an age dominated by more sophisticated tales, the spin-offs have included animated film versions, videos narrated by Ringo Starr, plus plastic books to read in the bath and others which illustrate a point with a sound effect.

Wilbert Awdry, a widower, died at his home in Stroud, Gloucestershire, where he had been bed-ridden with osteoporosis for some time. He began the series of stories in 1943 and wrote the first 26 before Christopher, one of his three children, took over.



Thomas the Tank Engine: runaway success for 50 years

Britt Allcroft, deputy chairman and co-founder of the company which licenses Thomas products worldwide, first produced an animated version after meeting the author during a television programme on the Bluebell Railway. Yesterday she said: "I first met Wilbert on a wet train platform nearly 20 years ago. That meeting changed my life and I took Wilbert's creation on a world tour.

"Thomas the Tank Engine was a wonderful inspiration and we know it bought happiness and joy to millions of children across the globe. Everyone at our company extends their deepest sympathy to Wilbert's family."

Diana Awdry, Christopher Awdry's wife, said that her father-in-law had never been able to comprehend the extent of Thomas the Tank Engine's appeal. "He never really understood it, but he was certainly very pleased with the success. We'll all remember him with a great deal of affection. He was a very Christian character and a very loving father-in-law."

The book series would be continued by her husband, she promised. As a boy, Christopher insisted on accurate repetition of the bedtime stories told to him by his father night after night, so his father wrote them down, accompanied with scribbled faces on the engine smokeboxes.

When the clergyman's wife noticed the stories scribbled on the backs of circulars, she had them sent to a literary agent.

Mr Awdry remained fiercely protective of the books, despite handing over control of the storylines to his son. He fought for them to stay true to the original spirit and railed against plans to improve women's standing by upgrading the role of female carriages.

His writing was eventually recognised with an OBE in the 1996 New Year's Honours list. A spokeswoman for the publisher, Reed Books, said: "He wrote stories which had wonderful appeal to children. The engines had so many characters to them which brought them to life, yet they remained vehicles which the children loved. They had equal appeal to both boys and girls."

Mr Awdry was involved with many rail preservation groups. A spokesman for the Dean Forest Railway Company, of which he was a president, said of his death: "It's a great shame and a sad loss.

"He'd been a long-standing enthusiast of the railways and it seemed quite a common thing for men of the cloth to be interested in that sort of thing."

The Dean Forest Railway Company reopened a disused line in Gloucestershire, and named one of its three steam locomotives Wilbert after the author.

The train became the subject of the thirty-eighth book in the Thomas the Tank Engine series, *Wilbert the Forest Engine*, written by Christopher Awdry. The group's spokesman added: "He used to come down here to sign his books, and he seemed to be involved with almost every rail preservation group going."

Obituary, page 27

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Fixed terms for repeat offenders become law

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE most sweeping changes in sentencing policy this century became law yesterday with the introduction of automatic minimum sentences for repeat violent offenders, persistent burglars and dealers in hard drugs.

Curbs on child-sex offenders also became law as part of a package resulting from the Dutch auction between the Conservatives and Labour over pre-election legislation. Convicted sex offenders will be subject to extended supervision on release for up to a maximum of ten years, and a register of sex offenders will be created. They will have to tell the police every time they move: those failing to register a change of address within 14 days may be jailed for up to six months and ordered to pay a £5,000 fine.

The changes came as Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, and Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, prepared to appear in a live debate on law and order in front of a studio audience on LWT's *Dimbleby* programme tomorrow.

It is planned that automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and serious sexual and violent offenders will come into force in October. But Mr Howard has been forced to accept changes to his plan for automatic three-year minimum sentences on third-time burglars and seven years for third-time dealers in hard drugs.

He accepted a Lords amendment giving judges greater discretion in sentencing. Judges will be able to give a lesser sentence if the court considers the minimum sentence to be "unjust in all the circumstances".

Mr Howard claims the amendment drives a coach and horses through his original aim, which was that only in exceptional circumstances would judges not have to impose the minimum sentence for domestic burglars and dealers in Class A drugs. The Conservative Party manifesto will promise to reverse the Lords amendment.

The new sentences for repeat burglars are unlikely to come into operation until October 1999, because the Prison Service must first build the new jails needed to house offenders. It has been estimated that 12 new jails could be needed to meet an estimated increase in the prison population.

Another measure creates two new offences designed to tackle stalking and other forms of harassment, including nuisance neighbours and racist abuse. Offenders who make people fear for their safety face five years' imprisonment, while those whose harassment is not life-threatening face up to six months.

Under other measures, the Parole Board, rather than the Home Secretary, will have responsibility for the release of juveniles convicted of murder. This includes the two boys in the James Bulger case.

Other measures that became law include a police Bill setting up a national crime squad and creating a Criminal Records Agency.

Scratchcard addict is hungry for a win

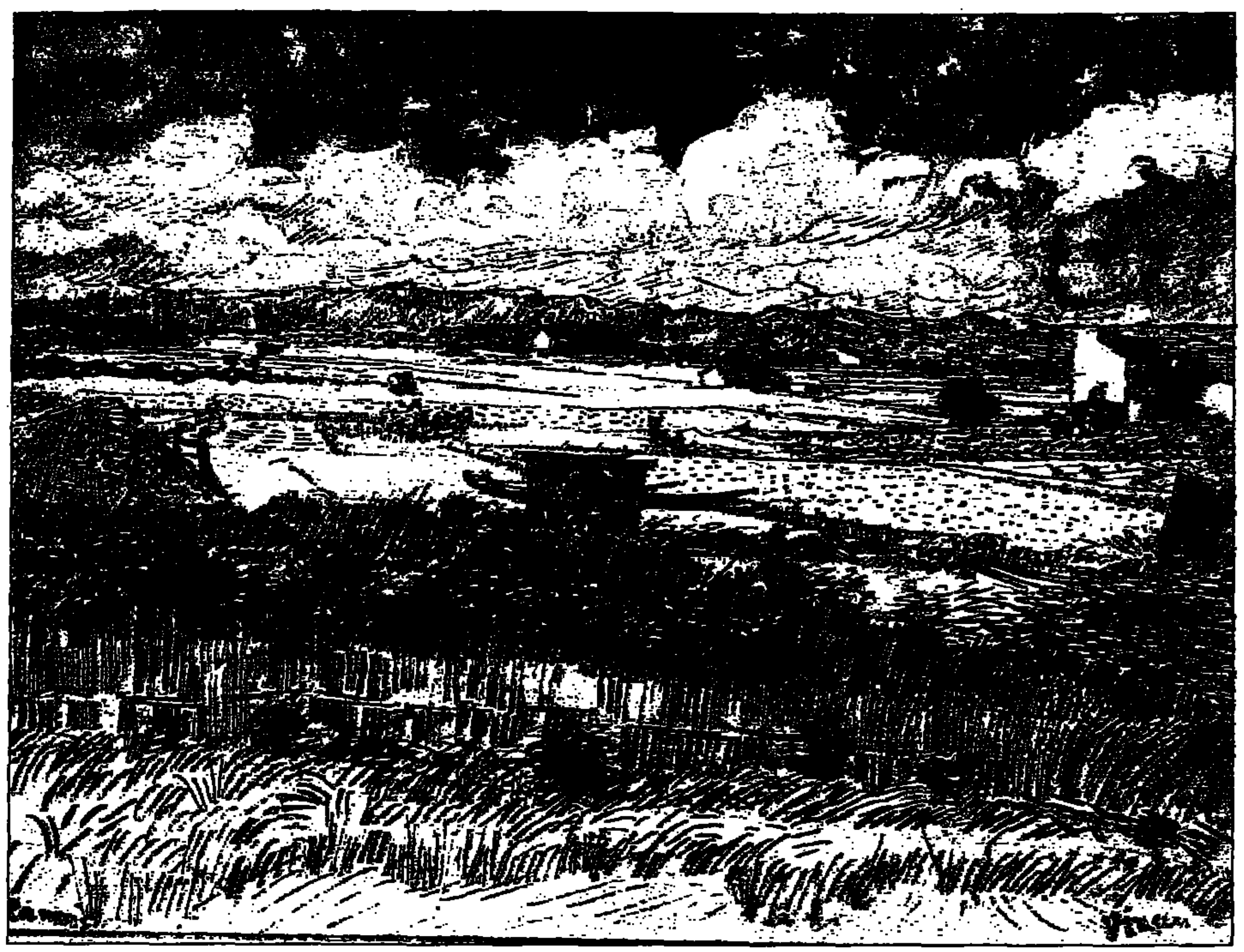
BY PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN is so addicted to lottery scratchcards that she even bought them with money intended for a hypnosis course to cure her of the habit, a court has been told.

Beverley Miles, 37, often goes without food to buy the cards out of her dole money. In court at Harrogate, North Yorkshire, she admitted stealing a fridge, a chest of drawers and a coffee table from her rented flat to finance her spending of up to £60 a week. After hearing of her addiction, magistrates declined to impose a penalty, but ordered her to pay £270 compensation to her landlords.

Peter Scott, for the prosecution, said Miles told police that she planned to replace the furniture with money from the win she is convinced is just around the corner. In fact, she has won only £50 twice.

Peter Ollie, in mitigation, said shops near her home had banned her to help her to beat the craving. Afterwards Miles said: "I wish it had never been invented. The addiction has taken over. The lure of the big win keeps me hooked. Now I am hundreds of pounds in debt and have to rely on my mother for a good meal."



Harvest in Provence, painted in summer 1888, during Van Gogh's Arles period. It is to be auctioned at Sotheby's in June

Rare Van Gogh watercolour may make £8m

BY DALYA ALBERGE

A WATERCOLOUR by Van Gogh not exhibited in public since 1948 is expected to fetch £8 million at auction this summer.

Sotheby's, which will offer it on June 24, described the panoramic landscape, *Harvest in Provence*, as the artist's most important work on paper in private hands. Melanie Clore, European head of the Impressionist and Modern Art Department, said it was hard to predict what such a rare work could make, but at £8 million, it would be "the most valuable modern picture sold by auction in Europe since 1990".

The scene was painted in June 1888 just outside Arles, where Van Gogh had settled that February. Ms Clore said: "It expresses his first enraptured response to the colours of the South [of France] in summer, and is the original version of the famous oil of the same subject, now in the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam." The watercolour, bought by J. B. A. Kessler, a collector of Impressionist art who died in 1983, is being sold by a trust.

Although Van Gogh painted about 1,000 works on paper, the number of fully finished works, as opposed to studies, is probably no more than 50. This image, a watercolour over pen and ink measuring 48cm by 60cm, was painted a few days before the oil work, which is sometimes known as *La Charette Bleue*. In a letter of June 1888 to his brother, Theo, Van Gogh described the oil as his best work during his Arles period. As he wrote in another letter that summer: "I must draw a great deal ... Things here have so much line and I want to get my drawing more spontaneous, more exaggerated."

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Major is to copy Kinnock's 1992 campaign tactic

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

TORY strategists are preparing to copy Neil Kinnock's general election campaign tactic of making greater use of television and regional media, rather than national newspapers, to try to put across the party message.

Senior figures in the party admit that the first week of John Major's general election campaign has been "intensely disappointing" and that a fresh start needs to be made next week.

Although they said that the real campaign would not start until next month, they admitted that they were anxious to get more positive coverage before Easter. The long campaign was intended to give the Tories chance to wrong-foot Labour but a senior Tory figure conceded that "no punches have landed yet".

There was a last-minute change of plan yesterday when more sleaze allegations put the Tories on the defensive for the third day. They cancelled plans to use the election battle-bus to take national newspaper journalists on Mr Major's trip to Gatwick iarport, and instead invited selected national news agency and television reporters.

Sources at Conservative Central Office gave two conflicting explanations for the late change. One was that there were logistical problems in taking large numbers of journalists on the train to Gatwick. Another was: "We did not want the Prime Minister's visit to eclipse our launch of a new poster." However, strategists were delighted at television film of Mr Major's helicopter flying over one of the poster sites.

They made clear that the tactic to make more use of regional media would be similar to that used by Mr Kinnock during his unsuccessful 1992 campaign, although they inisted that the Prime Minister was not "running away" from newspaper journalists, a charge levelled at Mr Kinnock.

Mr Major is determined to meet the public and answer questions from voters but is said to be "irritated by the sleaze questions" that have dominated national newspapers in the past three days.

The Prime Minister is said to be annoyed that newspaper coverage of the opening days of the campaign was also dominated by Labour-initiated outrage over the decision to end Commons business six weeks before the election.

"We don't think that national newspapers are a good way of putting our message across. There seems to be a great interest in trivia and newspapers have been taking the Labour agenda hook, line and sinker," a senior source said. "Phone-ins are a very good way of getting the message across."

National newspapers have been excluded from travelling with Mr Major during the past two days' campaigning, although senior Tories insist that it has been done for logistical reasons. Mr Major was said to have been angered by newspaper photographs suggesting that his wife, Norma, was unhappy and of pictures of him holding a detachable steering wheel, with headlines to the effect that the wheel had fallen off his campaign.

Tories say that impressive figures on crime, public borrowing, unemployment, inflation and eeconomic growth merited more national newspaper attention. They are also annoyed that the decision to drop key sections of the Crime (Sentences) Bill and Education Bill had been portrayed as a defeat by Labour.

Next week, national newspaper journalists will accompany the Prime Minister on three regional trips, which will involve a number of radio phone-ins. "We hope we can put all this sleaze behind us and make a fresh start," a senior Tory said. "This week has not gone as well as we had hoped it would, despite a great deal of good economic news."

A party strategist conceded that a visit to the MacLaren Formula One plant in Surrey had turned into "a disaster" when the racing driver David Coulthard's car appeared minus its wheels. "We do have to plan these better in future."

Freedom from the press: John and Norma Major on the Gatwick Express yesterday

Election escape

A local weekly newspaper has declared itself an election-free zone where readers can escape from politicians. The *Rotherham Advertiser* in South Yorkshire, where MP Denis MacShane has a majority of 17,561, has decided not to bore its audience with a forgone conclusion. The Yorkshire Dales Radio, which planned to launch on April 28, has postponed it to *May 4 to avoid having to* cover the poll.

Not so much a national icon as plain John from Brixton

RADIO

PETER BARNARD

As with a distress call from a leaking boat, the essentials of the radio phone-in are name and location. Thus it was that, 15 minutes late and shortly after a commercial for something that cures "dehydrated skin and tired eyes", John from Brixton hit the airwaves yesterday morning.

Marie from Putney, Marion from Palmer's Green, Marvin from Hendon all sounded like old hands at this game, but it was John from Brixton's first appearance in *phone-in land* since he called the general election using his alias, Prime Minister from Downing Street. It will be far from his last radio show, for the phone-in is likely to become John's electronic soapbox in this campaign: he is coming soon to a radio station near you, as are Tony from Islington and Paddy from Yeovil.

John's late appearance was caused by a technical hitch in the link to Downing Street, so he had to be driven to the LBC studios. There were worse consequences than could be imagined at the time, for the overrun delayed the next programme, hosted by Robbie Vincent, a gravel-voiced presenter admired by no less a listener than John from Brixton.

"Robbie Vincent has a million fans," John conceded, gushing to retrieve the vote of irate Vincent fans. "He's a national icon." John sounded as if he wished the same could be said of himself. A PR man for LBC subsequently told me that he would "push this line to the tabloids", presumably hoping to turn John's remark into a self-fulfilling prophecy: outside London, Vincent's name is about as familiar as a safe Tory seat.

John's appearance on *LBC Breakfast*, which is presented by Caroline Righter and Nick Lloyd (aka Sir Nicholas Lloyd, former Editor of the Express), brought no spectacular confessions, although when another John, from Highgate, asked about family breakdown, John from Brixton said: "I'm prepared to take the blame for most things that happen in this country but [to blame me for family break-up] is a bit rich."

Sadly, none of the myriad things for which John will take the blame was raised by yesterday's callers. On the non-publication of Sir Gordon Downey's cash-for-questions report, John repeated the party line that he had no right to interfere with the timing. Nick Lloyd asked him: "Aren't you a decent man surrounded by sleazy MPs?" John gave no direct reply, so whether he is either of these things remains unresolved.

Most of the callers asked questions about the usual national issues: people who live in London like to think that theirs is a national agenda. But Sheila from the City, MD of a recruitment company and member of the campaign to save Bart's hospital, did wonder whether the new "super-hospital" in east London would ever be built.

This project involves the Private Finance Initiative and John admitted that progress with the PFI had been "slow". Indeed he thought that primary healthcare in London was not improving as quickly as it was elsewhere in the country. But on Thursday, he said, he had been at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington and had seen "an Interventional Magnetic Resonance Scanner", a startling technical reference for 8.30 in the morning.

John is undoubtedly good at radio. The intimacy of the electronic soapbox enables him to play the chat-in-a-pub card. Whereas his attempts at bluntness in the Commons can appear forced, on radio he suggests bluntness but actually uses polite circumspection, which suits him better.

When Vic of Fulham asked yesterday about Gulf War syndrome and BSE, suggesting that "everything appears to have been hidden", John replied: "I think that is rather an improbable point, to put it bluntly." Bluntly? Clearly John of Brixton has much to learn about bluntness, as applied to the radio phone-in.

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Hamilton evidence reveals anger over 'betrayal' by party

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE Tory MP Neil Hamilton felt betrayed by the party high command, which forced him to resign as a minister and face the battle to clear his name on his own.

Mr Hamilton's 30,000-word submission to the Downey inquiry, a copy of which has been seen by *The Times*, portrays a figure bewildered by the turn of events in October 1994 when *The Guardian* published allegations that he had been paid £2,000 to table Commons questions by Mohamed Al Fayed. His frustration was divided between Mr Al Fayed and the leadership which pledged support but then withdrew it when the media campaign became "relentless".

In uncompromising language Mr Hamilton, the MP for Tatton, vents his fury at the way Mr Al Fayed's accusations were accepted at face value by *The Guardian*. He says the allegations were published a month after the Egyptian-born businessman lost his fight against the Department of Trade and Industry over his application for citizenship.

The first cash payments were allegedly made to Mr Hamilton in 1985 and the last in 1989. Mr Hamilton writes: "Why did he wait nine years after the conversation with Ian Greer, which he alleged so shocked him...seven years after allegedly making his first cash payment? Why did he wait five years after his last?"

Mr Hamilton attacks the terms of reference of the inquiry which mean he has to prove that the allegations against him are untrue.

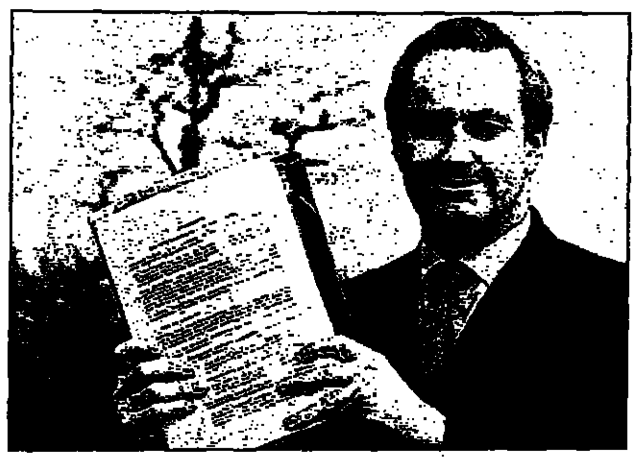
The MP maintains the biggest flaw in the Al Fayed argument is the lack of witnesses. "He [Al Fayed] is careful to emphasise that he and I were alone and no one would have seen the money being given," he writes.

Mr Hamilton is scathing about the emergence of three members of the Al Fayed staff in affidavits on the eve of the planned libel trial against *The Guardian* last October, who saw cash being stuffed in brown envelopes. "It is inconceivable, if the evidence were true, that he would not have produced some mention of witness evidence to reinforce his diary entries until... the eve of the trial two years after *The Guardian* article."

Mr Hamilton is dismissive of Richard Ryder, then Chief Whip, after the allegations were published. "I was ostensibly given a choice. Ryder said that the pressure might be too great for me to withstand but the decision whether to resign or not was left to me."

He decided to battle on but an hour later received a "furious telephone" call from Mr Ryder. "It was clear that although I had exercised the choice which he had ostensibly given me, he strongly disapproved of my decision. Nevertheless, as I had decided to remain a member of the Government I had a right to expect collective support. The displeasure of the Chief Whip carried with it the clear implication that such support would be only lukewarm".

On the following Monday he was denied contact with Tory MPs and told by Mr Ryder to "go back to my department and get on with my job". He adds: "He did not *tell me that it had already been* decided that by lunchtime tomorrow I would not have that job."



Neil Hamilton with his defence documents yesterday

Simon Jenkins, page 24
***Leading article*, page 25**

Plot thickens for MPs under investigation

By Polly Newton

MORE details of the allegations against MPs accused of *taking cash for asking parliamentary questions* and lobbying were disclosed yesterday *with the publication of evidence* given by the following MPs to the Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Downey. His inquiry covers events from 1986 to 1990.

Neil Hamilton, 48, Tory MP for Tatton since 1983, majority 15,860. Government Whip, 1990; Corporate Affairs Minister 1992-94.

The allegations: that he took payments of £10,000 from the lobbyist Ian Greer that were declared neither to ministers whom he lobbied nor to the taxman; that he told the President of the Board of Trade, that he had no financial relationship with Mr Greer; that he took thousands of pounds in envelopes from Mr Al Fayed while pushing his interests in Parliament; that he took undeclared free hospitality from Mr Al Fayed and from a tobacco company; that he took gifts instead of cash to keep down his tax bill.

Mr Hamilton admits everything except taking cash in envelopes from Mr Al Fayed.

Tim Smith, 49, Tory MP for Beaconsfield since 1982, majority 23,864. Northern Ireland Minister, Jan-Oct 1994.

The allegations: that as vice-chairman of the Conservative trade and industry committee he took undeclared payments between 1986 and 1989 of at least £18,000 in cash from Mr Al Fayed, some of it handed to him in envelopes and some delivered to his home; that in return he asked 17 questions about the House of Fraser takeover; that he he *signed early day motions* and proposed an adjournment debate on the takeover; that he *declared the money to the* taxman only as part of a larger sum earned by a partnership run by him and his wife; that he admitted to the Cabinet Secretary in September 1994 that he had taken the money from Mr Fayed but did not resign until October 20, when *The Guardian* published its cash-for-questions allegations.

Mr Smith admits that he took at least £18,000 and failed to declare it, but says he entered an interest in the *Register of Members' Interests* for two weeks at the end of the financial relationship. He *says he proposed an adjournment* debate on the House of Fraser takeover before taking *any payment. He says he was* acting in the public interest.

Michael Brown, 45, Tory *MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes*, entered Parliament 1979, majority 6,413. Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry, 1989-90; Minister of State, Foreign Office, 1990-92; Parliamentary Private Secretary to Northern Ireland Secretary, 1992-93; *assistant whip*, 1993-94.

The allegations: that he received three undeclared *payments totalling* £6,000 from Ian Greer Associates (IGA) in 1988 and 1989 for promoting *the interests of United States* Tobacco at meetings with ministers and in Parliamentary questions and early day motions; that he failed to declare the *payments* to the *taxman* until October 1996 when they became public knowledge.

Mr Brown admits receiving £6,000 in 1988 from IGA as a commission for introducing US Tobacco, and that he failed *to register the payment*. He admits failing to inform civil servants and ministers of his *financial interest* when he was lobbying on behalf of US Tobacco, and failing to declare *the payments for tax*.

Sir Michael Grylls, 63, Tory MP for Surrey North West, *not standing for re-election*. Chairman, Conservative *Trade and Industry* Committee, 1981-97.

The allegations: that he was *regularly paid undeclared* sums in cash, totalling about £86,000, to provide parliamentary services for clients of Ian Greer Associates; that he omitted his financial relationship with Mr Greer from the Register of Members' Interests; that he lied to the Select Committee on Members' Interests in 1990; that he steered companies towards Mr Greer to secure financial gain.

Sir Michael admits that he was receiving payments from Mr Greer during the period when he was helping Mr Greer's client, Mr Al Fayed. He admits that he told the Select Committee on Members' Interests in 1990 that he had made only three introductions of companies, although the real figure was six. He admits the regular flow of money was only notionally related to "introductions" or his work on behalf of the Unitary Tax Campaign.

Sir Andrew Bowden, 66, Tory MP for Brighton Kemptown since 1970, majority 3,056.

The allegations: that while he was helping Mr Al Fayed he was paid £5,319 towards election expenses by Ian Greer for the 1987 campaign; that he failed to declare the payments either in the register or as election expenses; that he received a further undeclared payment of £500; that in 1987, Mr Al Fayed met Sir Andrew and agreed to pay £5,000 in cash for information from Michael Land, vice-chairman of the MP's constituency association and a former employee of Lonrho — the company in dispute with Mr Al Fayed over the House of Fraser.

Sir Andrew admits receiving £5,319 from Mr Greer but denies it was related to his parliamentary lobbying for Mr Al Fayed. He says the *other £500 was for lectures* given to Mr Greer's clients. He denies receiving £5,000 *from Mr Al Fayed*.

Tim Smith at a school yesterday, hoping to avoid comparison with Humpty Dumpty

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHEN

By Andrew Pierce

THE timetable of the cash-for-questions affair, which has led to the resignation of two government ministers:

February, 1989: Tim Smith, the MP for Beaconsfield, receives a letter from Tiny Rowland, former chairman of Lonrho, accusing him of being in the pay of Mohamed Al Fayed. *Mr Smith swiftly severs* the three-year business arrangement and seeks a meeting *with David Waddington*, then *the* Chief Whip, and tells him he had received payments from Mr Al Fayed. *He* is advised to declare them.

January 1994: Mr Smith is appointed as Northern Ireland Minister. Confusion over why the information conveyed to Mr Waddington is or is not passed on to the Richard Ryder, serving Chief Whip.

September 29, 1995: Brian Hitchen, Editor of the *Sunday Express*, visits Mr Major, on behalf of Mr Al Fayed, to warn him about Neil Hamilton and Mr Smith.

September 30: The Prime Minister instructs Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, to set up an investigation into the allegations. He refers Mr Al Fayed's threat to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The investigation never starts.

October 10: Sir Robin interviews Mr Smith, who admits *taking the money*.

October 18: Sir Robin tells Mr Major that Mr Smith *should be forced to resign by* the end of the week.

October 19: Two ministers, Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith, named late night in the Commons by a Labour MP as *having taken payments* from Mr Al Fayed from 1987-89.

October 20, 1995: *The Guardian* publishes the cash-for-questions allegations. Mr Smith resigns the same day. Mr Hamilton vows to fight on.

October 21, 1995: Sir Robin, Michael Heseltine and the Chief Whip ask Mr Hamilton if he had a financial arrangement with Ian Greer. Mr Hamilton denies it. Mr Greer and Mr Hamilton issue a writ.

October 22, 1995: Sir Robin concludes inquiry.

October 26, 1995: Mr Hamilton resigns.

September 30 1996: The Greer and Hamilton libel trial collapses over conflicts of interest in their evidence.

March 17: *John Major announces* that Parliament will be Prorogued on March 21.

March 20: *The Times discloses* that Mr Smith had confessed to the Downey investigation that he had received £18,000, rather than than the £6,000 originally thought, *from Sir Gordon*.

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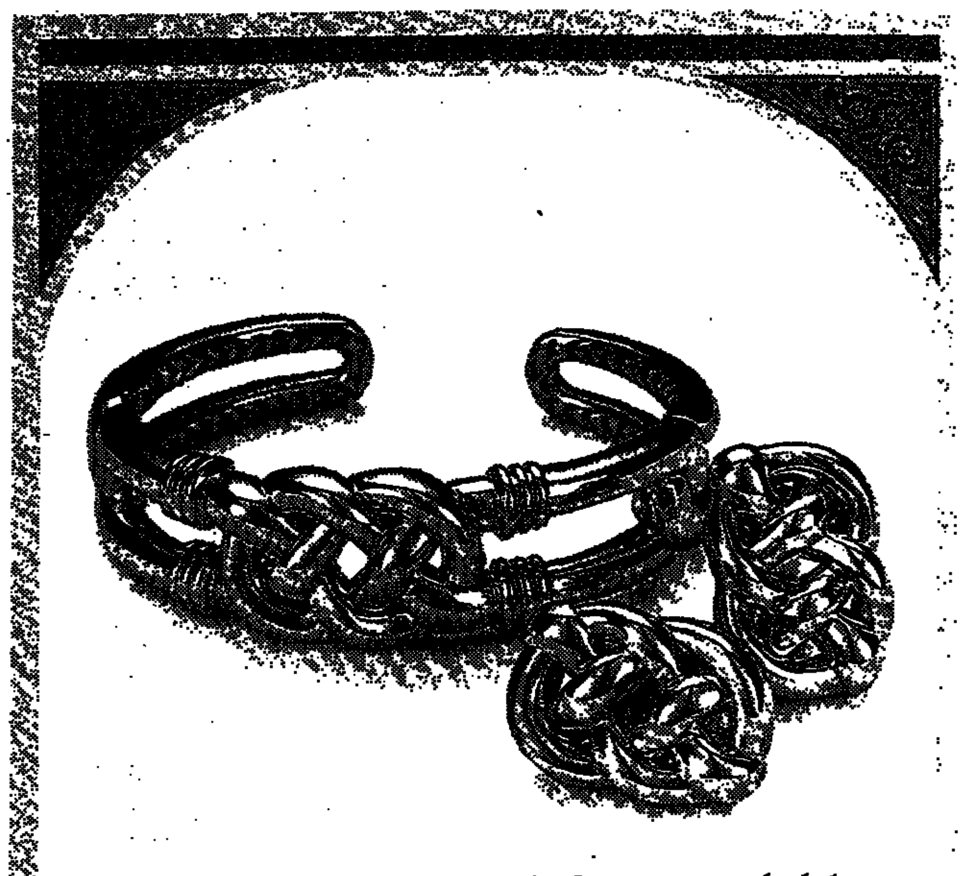

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Briton to receive *Légion d'honneur* for dash through stormy seas to reach race rival

Yachtsman earns top French honour for ocean rescue

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS
AND ADRIAN LEE

Dinelli: will be at race finish to meet rescuer

A BRITISH yachtsman who singlehandedly saved a stricken rival in a round-the-world race is to receive France's most celebrated honour for bravery, the *Légion d'honneur*.

Pete Goss, a former Royal Marine, answered a mayday call from Raphael Dinelli and sailed 160 nautical miles through storms to pull the Frenchman from a liferaft in the Southern Ocean.

Mr Goss, 35, will be honoured after he completes the Vendée Globe race in Les Sables d'Olonne, France, on Sunday. He is not expected to finish last of the six competitors left, despite the rescue and having to carry out surgery on his own arm.

The yachtsman was informed of the award by satellite fax. He previously used the fax to receive instructions from the race doctor on how to repair two hernias in his arm, and operated by the light of a torch strapped to his head.

Mr Goss, of St Germans, Cornwall, began the 22,000-mile challenge in France in November. His 50ft yacht, *Aqua Quorum*, is the smallest of the 16 in the race. He saved M Dinelli 1,200 miles south of Perth, Australia, after battling through heavy seas and storms which knocked down his boat three times. Mr Goss found the Frenchman, who was suffering from hypothermia, in a liferaft on Boxing Day. He radioed to race organisers: "I have just had the best Christmas present ever: Raphael is on board, cold but happy."

M Dinelli, 28, is expected to be on the quayside on Sunday to welcome his rescuer. Mr Goss, who is married with three children, ran up debts of £80,000 to take part. He will be the first Briton to complete the non-stop race. A fellow competitor, Tony Bullimore, from Bristol, was rescued after spending several days in his upturned yacht.

Yesterday Mr Goss was 300 miles off France in the Atlantic. He still has to take painkillers but has regained full movement in his injured arm, using it to pump a generator for four hours every day. He was said to be "surprised and delighted" to receive the award, which will be presented in Paris later.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said in a letter to him: "We want to express our profound gratitude, together with our compatriots, for the help you gave to the French yachtsman in trouble in heavy seas. Risking your own life, you did not hesitate to do everything possible to save our compatriot."

Mr Goss joins a distinguished group of Britons, including Queen Victoria and Richard Cobb, the late historian, who have been given the right to wear the coveted red ribbon. Devised by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the *Ordre de la Légion d'honneur* is France's principal national decoration. It was originally intended to create a group of veteran soldiers and political allies that could play the role of an "intermediary body" between the State and the people. Members of the order had to swear an oath to uphold liberty and equality.

In recent years the award has come to be used as a general mark of recognition by the French State, presented for acts of bravery and to individuals of distinction in every sphere. About 210,000 people currently hold the honour. On his state visit to Britain last year, President Chirac, who is the grand master of the legion, presented 12 of the awards. Recipients included Sir Christopher Mallaby, the former British Ambassador to France.

An official at the *Grande Chancellerie de la Légion d'honneur*, the office in Paris that administers the award, said that on average five to ten British citizens received the distinction each year. In 1963 President de Gaulle decided that it was being given too freely, and sharply reduced the annual nominations. Anyone sentenced to prison for a criminal offence is must immediately surrender the award.

The holder is entitled to wear the red ribbon in the buttonhole or to wear a clip designating the award on the lapel at all times. Professor Cobb claimed to have had the ribbon sewn onto his pyjamas. The medal that goes with the award, a star with five double branches that is engraved with Marianne, the female symbol of the republic, is made of silver, or gold for senior grades of the order.

VANDYSTADT/ALLSPORT

Pete Goss, who radioed: "I have just had the best Christmas present ever: Raphael is on board, cold but happy"

Raphael Dinelli on the hull of his yacht, *Algimouss*

United are sent off by a Red Card

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

BACKERS of the non-league soccer club Chelmsford City have scored a victory against the premiership giants Manchester United over an advertisement for the soft drink Red Card.

A poster for Red Card, which calls itself a high-energy drink, featured the part-time players of Chelmsford City and the slogan, "If you can smell fear, Man Utd must reek". Red Card is made by the Chelmsford-based company Britvic, which sponsors City. United complained to the Advertising Standards Authority that the advertisement "could provoke antisocial behaviour, unfairly attacked the reputation of Manchester United and made unfair use of the goodwill attached to the club's name".

Although the authority conceded that the poster might be seen as encouraging rivalry between fans of the two teams, it thought that it was unlikely to cause serious or widespread offence or to encourage antisocial behaviour, and rejected the complaint. The authority accepted Red Card's argument that the public would see the poster as ironic and typical of the laddish language used by football supporters.

In December Paul Gascoigne threatened legal action against Britvic over an advertisement showing a crushed can of Red Card with the slogan "You can't beat a Red Card, Gazza". Gascoigne, who was reported to have battered his wife, Sheryl, is understood to have felt that the advertisement was referring to his domestic problems.

Disabled fans barred from final

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SIXTY disabled fans of Middlesbrough Football Club will be unable to watch their side in a cup final, despite having season tickets, because Wembley does not have facilities for them.

The national stadium can take only 30 fans in wheelchairs from each team for the Coc-Cola Cup on April 6. The 60 will miss out despite being among Middlesbrough's 27,000 season-ticket holders, who are usually guaranteed a seat. The club has 32,000 tickets for the game against Leicester City.

Fiona Wilson, a carer for one of the unlucky supporters, said: "This is disgraceful. For many of the older fans, it is a lifelong dream to watch their club at Wembley in a major final. These are season-ticket holders, but they are being discriminated against."

In its new Riverside Stadium, which was opened in 1995, Middlesbrough have room for at least 300 home and away supporters in wheelchairs and offer front row seats to other disabled fans. The 30 who are going have been selected from those who suffer from the worst disabilities and who have attended all the club's games this season.

Martin Corrie, the Wembley spokesman, said: "Although we have modernised the stadium, we are limited by the original design and there is insufficient room at ground level to house more than 30 from each club."

Football, pages 54-56

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stalker is jailed for four years

An illegal immigrant who stalked and terrified a hairdresser for more than a year, after she refused to enter into a marriage of convenience with him, was jailed for four years yesterday.

Alman Al-Shlash, 33, a former Syrian secret agent, left Catherine Allali, 36, on the brink of insanity, Southwark Crown Court was told. They both lived in Mayfair, London, where he followed her to and from work, stood outside her home, rang her at night and tricked his way in. Judge Rucker told Al-Shlash, convicted in January of mentally inflicting grievous bodily harm, he had made a healthy, happy woman very ill.

Human cargo

A lorry driver who tried to smuggle 24 illegal Asian immigrants through the Channel Tunnel was jailed for 2½ years. Phillip Arlott, 39, of Littleover, Derby, claimed he was threatened at gunpoint in Germany.

Bolt from blue

A 3in bolt protruding from the surface of the A14 near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, disrupted traffic when it punctured the tyres of 14 lorries before police closed the carriageway and had the bolt removed.

Veteran cleared

A Parachute Regiment veteran was cleared of hitting his neighbour, Marguerite Cameron, 84, in a dispute over tree-felling in Basingstoke, Hampshire. Philip Butler, 76, a former sergeant, said: "I could never hit a woman."

Cinema boom

Cinema attendances rose last year to 112.1 million, the highest of the decade, boosted by successes such as *Independence Day*, *Mission: Impossible* and *101 Dalmatians*. Britain now has an estimated 1,757 cinema screens.

Shop assistance

Women tired of taking bored partners round clothes shops can drop them off at a creche for men in Birmingham. A store in City Plaza provides a sofa, videos and a glass of wine for the men, while women are free to shop.

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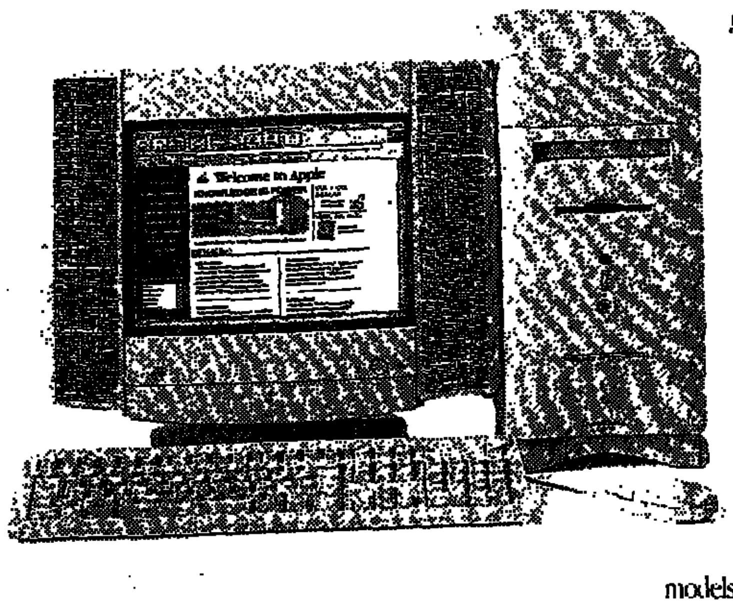

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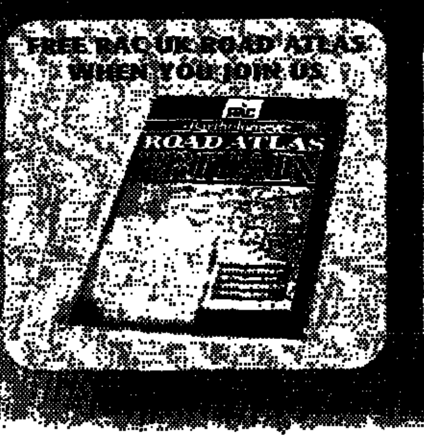

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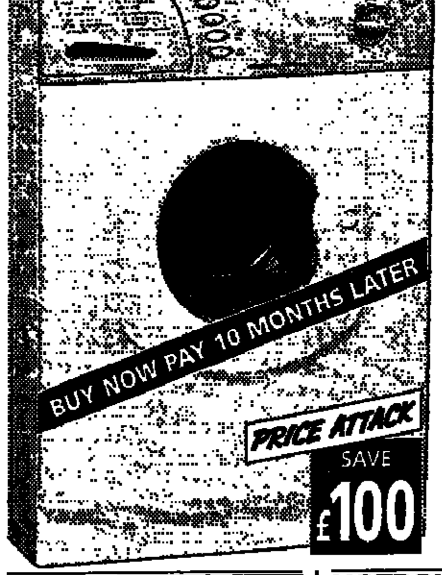

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SONY SLVE710 NICAM VIDEO	£369.99
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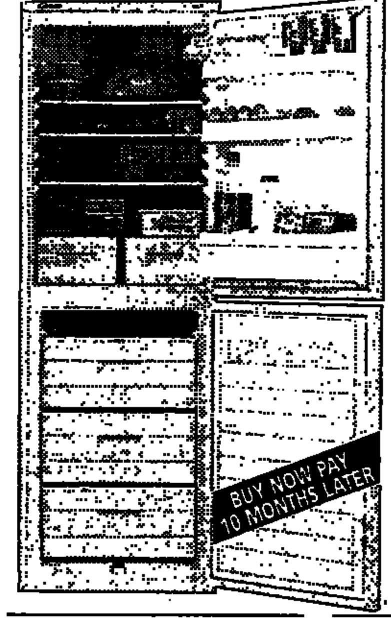

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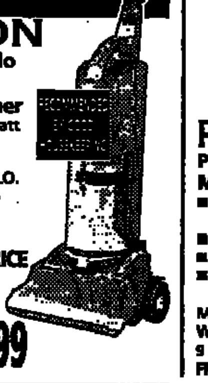

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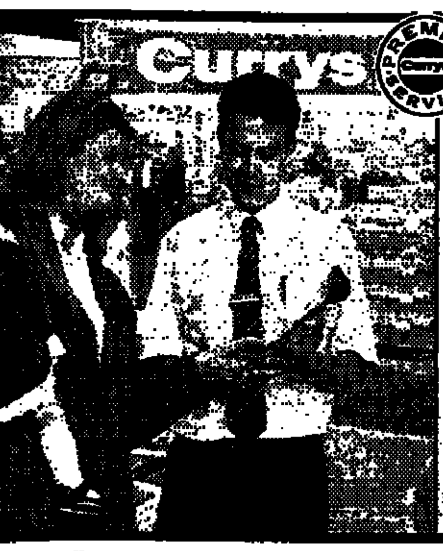

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هكذا من الأصل

‘It is like Euston station or one great cocktail party. The noise is deafening’

Abbey hopes £4 entry fee will curb unholy din

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

WESTMINSTER Abbey is likely to introduce a £4 admission charge next year to reduce the growing crowds of tourists that threaten to destroy its spiritual atmosphere.

The cathedrals of St Paul's, Canterbury and Ely have already introduced entry fees to raise funds, and other religious attractions are considering making the increasing number of visitors contribute to their upkeep.

Westminster Abbey, however, is flush with funds. It is considering charges not to raise money but to help the hard-pressed clergy to keep control of their church and to reduce noise in what is intended to be a place of prayer. Entrance to services would be free and there would be a place of prayer that worshippers could enter at any time without charge.

While other parts of the Church of England have seen a serious decline in numbers, the abbey is overrun with visitors almost daily. Canon Anthony Harvey, the archdeacon, said: "The abbey is rather like Euston station, or one great cocktail party. The noise is deafening. At certain times, it has become dangerous."

St Paul's, Ely and Canterbury have seen funds soar since they introduced charges for the millions of visitors who pass through their doors each year. Winchester, Wells and Salisbury, which do not have an explicit charge but encourage visitors to contribute with strategically placed signs and collection boxes, have also had a big rise in funds.

An official decision has still to be made at Westminster, but a £4 charge for adults is expected to be introduced from Easter next year.

Tourists already pay that sum to visit the abbey's Chapels Royal, and a £4 fee for members of tour groups was introduced last year. If the blanket charge were introduced, there would not be an additional fee for the Chapels Royal.

Emma St John-Smith, spokeswoman for the abbey, said: "We have not come to a conclusion yet. We have a huge overcrowding problem and something has got to be done. We have 2½ million visitors each year, and that does not include service congregations.

"In peak periods it is impossible to move across the nave. We have somehow got to calm and quieten it down."

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Tourists outside Westminster Abbey yesterday. About 2½ million people visit each year, often causing overcrowding

Charges for tour parties were introduced at the request of the tour operators, she said. This was because those that charged visitors more to allow them to see the entire abbey were being undercut by tour operators that offered a reduced price to see only the nave and other free areas. The abbey, technically not a cathedral but a Royal Peculiar, has charged for access to the Chapels Royal for centuries.

Canon David Hutt, steward of Westminster, said: "A number of working parties are looking at different aspects of the abbey's operation, and charging is one option. But we have a sound financial basis and this is not to do with creating revenue. I have looked long and hard at Canterbury and St Paul's, and at both of these cathedrals control has effectively been regained. Nobody wants to charge people to come to church, but the reality is that 90 per cent of our visitors come because it is on the tourist route and has significant monuments. Given predictions of an increase, we have to do something."

Dr John Moses, the new Dean of St Paul's, said there were no plans to reverse the decision to charge visitors, made under his predecessor, the late Dr Eric Evans.

The Very Rev Richard Lewis, Dean of Wells and chairman of the Deans and Provosts' Conference, said: "Unless those who visit these wonderful places contribute to their upkeep, before very long they simply cannot continue in the way they do. The issue of how to raise money from pilgrim tourists is on the agenda of almost every cathedral at present, and certainly those on the tourist trail."

The Very Rev Ray Furnell, Dean of York and chairman of the Association of English Cathedrals, is not considering imposing charges on the two million annual visitors to York Minster. "It is a decision that each cathedral has to make in the light of its financial situation," he said. "I personally would be loathe to charge, but can quite understand why there are those who do. This is not a subject that is currently on our agenda."

At Your Service
Weekend, page 13

Priest dies at altar during early Mass

By A Staff Reporter

A PRIEST has collapsed and died at the altar during an early morning Roman Catholic Mass. Canon Laurence Hollis, 79, was consecrating the Host at the church of Our Lady of the Rosary in Shotley Bridge, near Consett, Co Durham.

He officially retired six years ago but continued to assist at weekday Masses. Last year Canon Hollis met the Pope in Rome to celebrate his 50 years as a priest.

A colleague, the Rev Joseph Plumb, said: "He was not the sort of man who would have wanted to get old and frail.

"He was still a very busy man and popular in the area. He worked hard for the Church and I think this is the way he would have wanted to go."

John Toner, a member of the congregation when Father Hollis collapsed, said: "He was blessing the Host one minute and then there was this awful bang. I looked up and he had fallen against the altar."

Paramedics tried to revive the canon and he was anointed by colleagues before being taken to hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

Churches have been asked to dedicate Masses to the canon. His funeral next week will be attended by the Right Rev Ambrose Griffiths, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle.

More than 500 mourners are expected at the service, which will be held at the chief church of the parish, Our Blessed Lady Immaculate in Blackhill. Father Plumb has charge of the parish while the parish priest, the Rev John Kennedy, is in Ireland recovering from an operation.

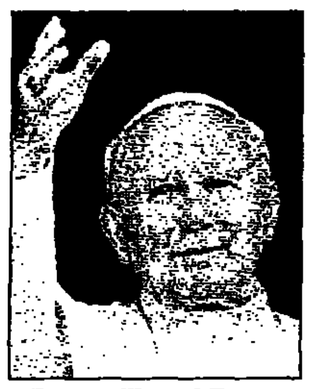
Pope makes appearance on Songs of Praise

By Ruth Gledhill

POPE John Paul II is to deliver a special message to British television viewers on Easter Day in the first appearance by a pontiff on the BBC's *Songs of Praise*.

In a recorded announcement from the Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome, the Pope will say: "I extend special greetings to the representatives of the BBC and to the viewers of *Songs of Praise*. May God fill your hearts with sentiments of joy and gratitude towards our Creator."

St Mary Major has a congregation of 700, most of whom are British Christians of various denominations. It is the first time that *Songs of Praise* has visited Rome.



Pope: will send Easter message from Rome

Maurice Maguire, the producer, said: "We were given special access to film the Pope visiting a parish in his home diocese — a rare opportunity for viewers to see him performing his duties as Bishop and Archbishop of Rome."

Pam Rhodes, the presenter, said that it had taken two years to arrange his appearance. "The amount of red tape involved is amazing and nothing about dealing with the Vatican is ever predictable."

☐ *The Easter edition of* Songs of Praise *is broadcast at 5.45pm on March 30.*

Police recover stolen brass eagle lectern

A BRASS eagle lectern worth £20,000 has been found three years after it was stolen from from St Katherine's Church in Exbury, Hampshire. It was recovered in Southampton by detectives investigating other alleged offences.

The lectern, which was bought by a man in the city for £300, will have to remain at a police station for the present. The Rev Terry Abernethy, rector of St Katherine's, said that the insurance money from the stolen eagle had been spent on a new lectern, made from wood by a local craftsman and churchgoer which, he said, suited the look of the church better.

"Now I suppose the insurers will want their money back. I cannot understand how anyone came to steal the eagle in the first place. It takes four men and a trolley to shift it even a couple of inches."

Credo

Mystery of Easter drama should be sought in silence

One of the early fathers of the Christian Church spoke of the death of Jesus as a mystery wrought in the silence of God. Here are words — *mystery* and *silence* — which should properly inform the approach of Christian people as we enter once again upon the drama of Holy Week.

The events of Holy Week are familiar, from the entry into Jerusalem to the Crucifixion. It is true that there comes a point as the story unfolds when Jesus moves from activity to passivity, from action to passion, as He hands Himself over. But the words that first suggest themselves as we read the story are movement, action, drama.

John Moses

It is the Church's task to set before us in its liturgy the whole drama of our redemption as it reaches its climax in the events of Holy Week and Easter. What is required of us as we approach these days is an awareness of the mystery of salvation and of the grace of silence. *Mystery* speaks of things that lie beyond our understanding. The Cross is the element of uncompromising and inescapable sacrifice at the heart of Christian faith. It defies rational explanation.

It continues to speak, however, to the brokenness, the torment, of our world. It is in the wastelands of our experience that we enter the darkness. It is there — and, perhaps, only there — that the Cross can speak of the wisdom and the power of God.

Silence speaks of the only response that faith can make. To wait upon God in silence is to pray. Indeed, it is the most profound, the most disturbing, prayer that can be offered. It is in the poverty, the emptiness of our discipleship that we approach the mystery of salvation. Silence speaks of the necessity of waiting, of discerning, of receiving.

Mystery and *silence* challenge our ways of believing, of praying, of responding. We are active, energetic, pragmatic people. We acknowledge the place that these words must have within the vocabulary of the Church, but there is something that holds us back. Is it the fear that we might lose control?

Scripture reminds us that it is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. The invitation is to engage with the mystery, to enter the silence. But, yes, there is always the danger that we might actually be touched and changed by the events of Good Friday and Easter Day.

There is, however, a question that must be asked not only of individuals but of the Church. *Mystery* and *silence* are not words that come immediately to mind where the vocabulary of contemporary church life is concerned.

There is much in the life of the Church for which we can be profoundly grateful. There are patterns of worship and work — conscientious and participative — which take seriously both our understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ and our engagement with the world.

But the saving events of our religion — the mysteries of faith — demand a response that is fundamentally reflective and contemplative in character. *Mystery* and *silence* must shape our approach to Holy Week and Easter, but they must also inform throughout the year our patterns and our styles of worship, our use of scripture, our teaching and our training programmes, our developing traditions of prayer.

There is a growing awareness of the immense resources we possess within the life of the Church. We live in a world where people are still able to recognise the authority of *mystery* and the integrity of *silence*. Holy Week is a good time for new beginnings.

☐ *Dr John Moses is the Dean of St Paul's*

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EAGLE STAR

Bizarre return for troubled Mobutu

From Sam Kiley
in Kinshasa

THE return of Zaire's President Mobutu collapsed into bizarre chaos at Kinshasa's international airport yesterday when civilian dignitaries and the military high command waiting to greet him were ordered off the tarmac.

The incident intensified speculation that the ailing President had taken a turn for the worse on his seven-hour flight from France.

Mr Mobutu, 66, who left Nice yesterday morning, failed to appear at the door of his DC8 after his limousine was driven to the steps of the aircraft. A handful of his entourage descended from the plane carrying shopping bags, but left the assembled welcoming party to an unexplained, half-an-hour hiatus.

Mobutu at Nice airport before yesterday's flight

The President's return had been billed by his supporters as an opportunity to end the political chaos which had engulfed the capital, Kinshasa, since a rebel uprising in the east last November. But at the airport there was no sign of the "father of the nation". His plane restarted its engines as the guard of honour was ordered to shoulder arms and go away. Leon Kengo wa Dondo, the Prime Minister, who is disputing his "removal" by a parliamentary vote, managed to maintain his composure when he was almost knocked to the ground by the honour guard, who scrambled to leave the airport. General Mahele Lieko Bukongo, the Chief of Staff, was just as unceremoniously told to leave Njili airport.

At sunset there was still no proof that Zaire's leader, who has spent most of the last eight months in Europe being treated for cancer, had set foot in his home country. "He is clearly very ill. This is most mysterious," a member of his staff said.

A source close to Mr Mobutu said last night that the President had arrived in Kinshasa but had not wanted to be seen being helped from his aircraft. The source said the President had been helped into his limousine, which drove from the airport through Kinshasa in a convoy that was jeered by onlookers. As a sign of high disrespect, they whistled and flicked the backs of their hands and shouted support for Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader who has vowed to topple the President.

Had Kinshasa not been primed for violence with a civilian government voted out of office by a parliament under pressure from the military, Mr Mobutu's return would have been laughable. But the scenes could ignite anarchy.

Members of the President's entourage admitted that his return was less an attempt to resolve Zaire's political crisis than an effort to buy time for his family to escape. "The reign of Mobutu is over in anything but name. There is nothing left that he can do," a family friend said.

Britain may stage airlift

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

BRITISH troops may be sent to Zaire to move nearly 500 Britons and Commonwealth citizens who have been caught up in the spreading civil war.

Contingency plans are being prepared which could involve deploying the short-notice "Spearhead" Battalion, now the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, to establish an operational base from which to organise an evacuation. Foreign Office sources confirmed yesterday that a number of military options were being studied in case the situation in Zaire deteriorated rapidly.

There are about 470 people who might need to leave Zaire, 310 of them with British passports and the rest Commonwealth citizens for whom the Foreign Office has consular responsibilities. Most are based in Kinshasa, but special arrangements might be necessary to help Britons in outlying regions to reach Kinshasa.

France has sent troops and planes to Congo and Gabon, and the United States has also made contingency plans for nationals.

ALEXANDRA JOE

A lorry driver clutches looted Zairean currency worth £125 which he was paid for carrying rebels to newly-conquered Kisangani

Marconi book broadcasts his Fascist role

From Richard Owen in Rome

GUGLIELMO MARCONI, normally thought of in his homeland as a national hero for his invention of radio, was an ardent Fascist who misused his genius in the service of the dictator, Benito Mussolini, according to a book published here yesterday.

Born in 1874, Marconi emigrated to Britain, frustrated by his attempts to win recognition in Italy. He is nonetheless held up as an example of Italian enterprise who transmitted radio waves across the Straits of Dover in 1899, and won the Nobel prize for physics.

However, in a book on Italian intellectuals in Britain between 1920 and 1940 Alfio Bernabei reveals that, in his late forties, Marconi became honorary president of the London branch of Mussolini's Blackshirts and "used his invention to make personal broadcasts in support of the Duce". Unknown to him, or the 1,500 members of the British branch, MI5 was keeping a close eye on Mussolini's followers.

> ‘Many are unaware that he was such a key figure in the Fascist movement’

Signor Bernabei, who has lived in London for more than 30 years and is the London correspondent of the left-wing daily *l'Unità*, says archives in the Public Records Office show that Marconi was one of the first Italian intellectuals to congratulate Mussolini when he came to power in 1922. Not long after — when Mussolini was flexing his muscles by briefly occupying Corfu — Marconi applied for party membership, declaring his "full and unconditional support" for Mussolini's "patriotic and energetic" policies. In April, 1927, he became head of the British branch of the Italian Fascist Party.

Signor Bernabei's researches show that, when Marconi became president of the British branch, his fellow Blackshirts greeted him with the words: "In the golden book of those who were among the first to side with Fascism, there are no names more significant and illustrious than those of Mussolini and Marconi."

Marconi organised a "Blackshirt Gala" at the Savoy Hotel to celebrate his appointment, attended by leading figures from London society. He arranged for a live wireless link with Rome at midnight so his guests could be greeted by the Duce personally.

In 1932 Marconi made a broadcast in English, French and German appealing to "men of thought and artists all over the world to visit Rome to experience at first hand the achievements of the Fascist Revolution". He supported Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia, describing Ethiopians as a "dark tangle of tribes" who would benefit from the "very light" of Italian civilisation, and he condemned the League of Nations' sanctions against Italy as "criminal".

Signor Bernabei said a "veil of silence" had been drawn over Marconi's activities. "Marconi's Fascist sympathies are sometimes mentioned, but many Italians and foreigners are unaware that the great inventor was such a key figure in the Fascist movement," Signor Bernabei said.

Marconi died in Rome in 1937. GEC-Marconi, which owns his archive, caused uproar in January when it announced that it was selling the papers through Christie's next month. Princess Elettra Marconi-Giovanelli, the inventor's daughter, who lives in Rome, launched a campaign last month to stop the sale.

☐ *Italian Exiles and Immigrants in the United Kingdom 1920-1940 ("Esuli ed Emigrati Italiani nel Regno Unito 1920-1940") is published in Italian by Ugo Mursia Editore, Milan, price £9.30.*

Guglielmo Marconi, revered as an inventor and hero

WORLD SUMMARY

Hitch over Chinese garrison

London: Britain and China failed to agree on arrangements for posting a Chinese garrison in Hong Kong ahead of the July 1 handover during talks between the two Governments in London this week (Mark Henderson writes).

Zhao Jihua, the Chinese Ambassador, who represented Beijing at a meeting of the Sino-British joint liaison group, said yesterday that the impasse threatened to disrupt a smooth handover. The size of the garrison and the date of its arrival in the colony remain at issue.

Gore's daughter to wed doctor

Washington: Vice-President Al Gore's oldest daughter, Karenna, is to marry Andrew Schiff, a New York doctor, in Washington in November (Bronwen Maddox writes). Karenna, 23, a Harvard graduate, works on the Internet magazine *Slate*. Mr Schiff, 31, is a Democrat although he comes from a wealthy Republican banking family.

Sri Lanka orders poll curfew

Colombo: Sri Lanka declared a night curfew as sporadic violence and charges of rigging marred crucial local government elections. A bomb blast injured at least 14 people near a polling booth in the town of Wennapuwa, while shootings and assaults were also reported. There were no deaths. *(AFP)*

Priebke moved to monastery

Frascati: Erich Priebke, 83, the German former SS captain whose retrial for alleged Nazi war crimes begins next month, was moved from jail to house arrest in a Roman Catholic monastery here. He will be kept in a room with a bullet-proof glass window covered by bars. *(Reuter)*

O J falls behind on mortgage

New York: A mortgage company has started foreclosure proceedings against O.J. Simpson because he has missed $86,000 (£55,000) in payments on his Los Angeles mansion, the *New York Post* reported. He has three months to pay the sum. *(Reuter)*

Reunion bash

Amsterdam: A mother, 63, and her daughter, estranged for eight years, bumped into each other in a road accident. After an emotional reunion, the daughter, 44, left for hospital treatment. *(AP)*

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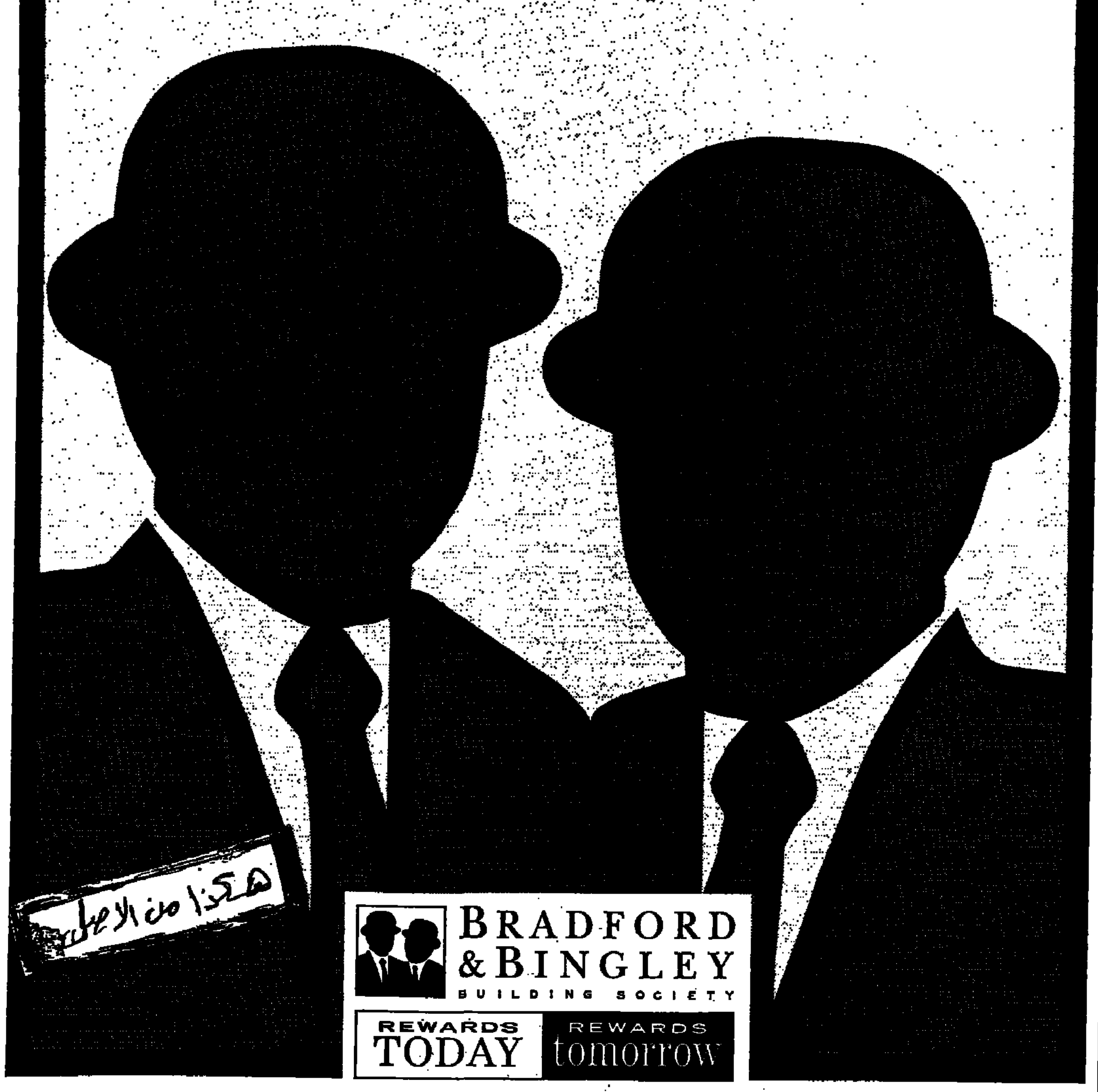

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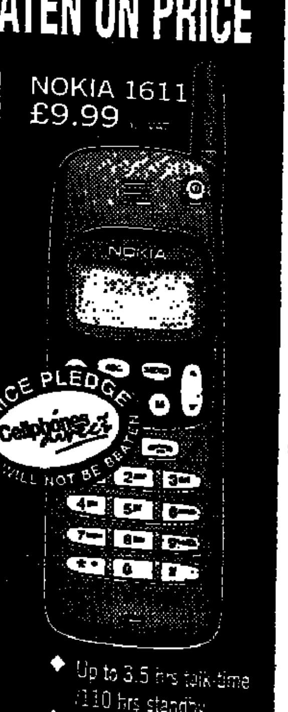

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22 1997

Freedom hope for Briton as Papua mercenaries leave

By Noel Pascoe in Port Moresby, Roger Maynard in Sydney and Michael Evans

THE British leader of the *foreign mercenaries* in Papua New Guinea is likely to be freed today after Brigadier-General Jerry Singirok, the *dismissed military* chief, agreed to let him go.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, formerly of the Scots Guards, who was once military assistant in Bosnia to General Sir Michael Rose, is due to be handed over to Bob Low, the British High Commissioner in Port Moresby.

The mercenaries were *hired by the Papua New Guinea Government on a* reported £20 million contract to help to quell a rebellion on the island of Bougainville. They were detained *earlier* this week by General Singirok, who called for the *overthrow of* the Prime Minister. His sacking led to riots and looting in Port Moresby.

As the deal was *struck* between General Singirok and Mr Low, the sacked defence chief issued *another ultimatum* to Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister. He told him *to step down* by Tuesday or face a parliamentary vote of confidence.

In Canberra, John Howard, *the Australian Prime Minister*, confirmed that troops had been placed on a higher state *of readiness in case the situation in Port Moresby* deteriorated. He emphasised that the Australians were not *preparing to help the Papua New Guinea police to restore peace*, but he did not rule out the possibility that they could be *used to* evacuate Australians if necessary.

Sixty mercenaries, hired by Sir Julius to train the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to end the nine-year secessionist *Bougainville rebellion, left the* country for Hong Kong yesterday to the sound of jeers and insults from demonstrators.

The hiring of the soldiers, contracted by London-based Sandline International, provoked *the confrontation* between Sir Julius and General Singirok, who objected to foreigners getting involved in fighting the Bougainville rebels.

The former defence chief yesterday released details of the £18 million contract with Sandline International. He was involved in the negotiations.

He said the mercenaries would have been used as frontline fighters in Bougainville *and not merely as instructors*, as the Prime Minister had stated.

The demonstrators who *gathered at the airport to see* off the mercenaries had assumed that Lieutenant-Colonel Spicer, the chief executive *of Sandline International*, was among them.

However, the company later said that he was still being held. *The High Commissioner* succeeded in *speaking* on the telephone to Lieutenant-Colonel Spicer yesterday, although he was *not* allowed to see him.

Earlier, demonstrators gathered outside the British High Commission to voice *their opposition to the mercenaries*. Mr Low reassured them that the force was leaving. Port Moresby was relatively *quiet* after police put up roadblocks around the town to stop rioters.

A supporter of sacked General Singirok threatens an opposing soldier in Port Moresby yesterday

Tobacco firms act to silence research

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

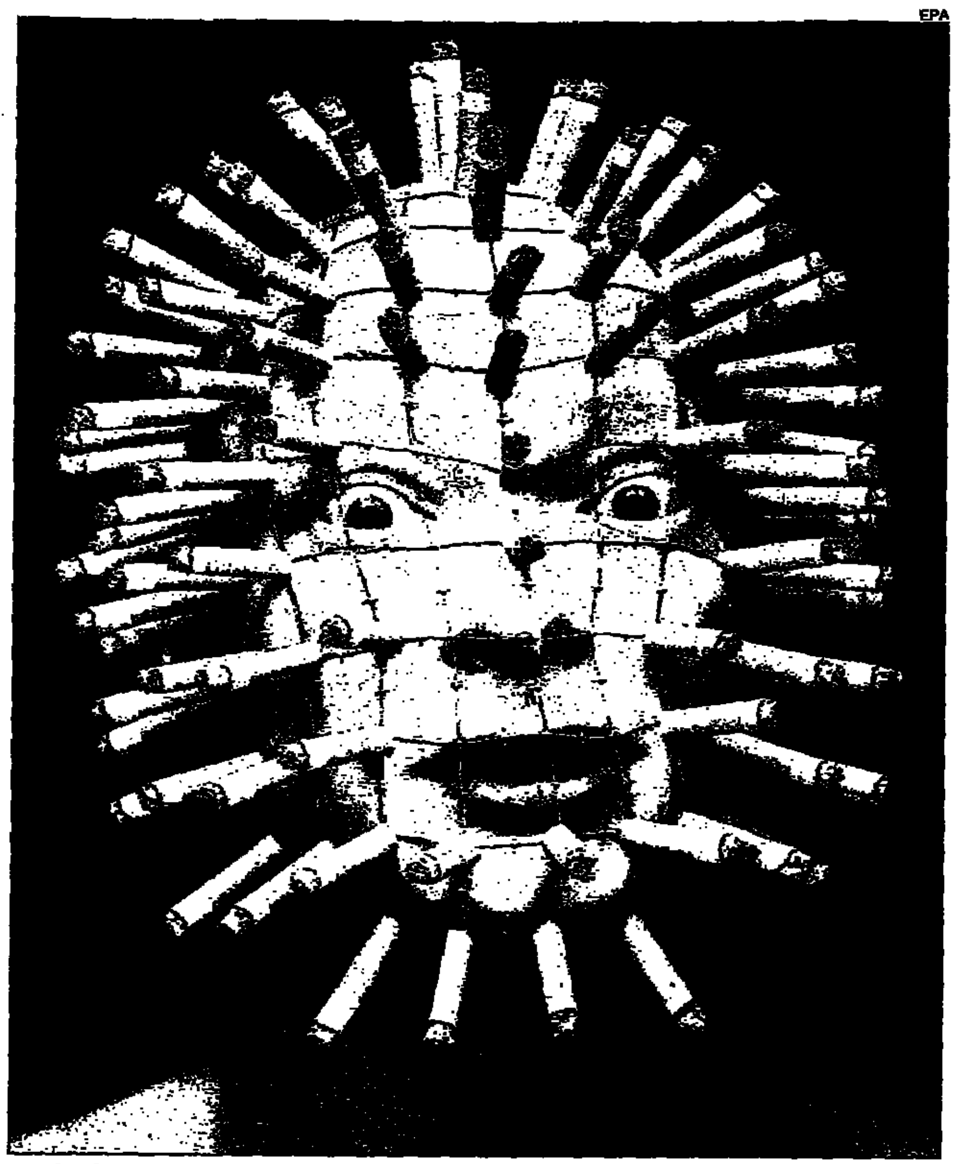
AMERICA'S biggest tobacco firms, backed by Wall Street, *last night launched* a counter-offensive against a rival's promise to release health research that could jeopardise the $50 billion (£31.4 billion) American industry.

The Liggett Group, the *smallest of the five big tobacco* companies and the maker of Chesterfield, announced a settlement with 22 states on Thursday *in which it admitted*, for the first time, that smoking was addictive, caused heart disease, cancer and *lung-related illnesses*. Most importantly, the company agreed to provide evidence of meetings between industry *lawyers that it* claimed would prove tobacco firms had long known of the *dangers of nicotine and still* continued to market cigarettes to underage smokers.

The four other big manu*facturers — which include* Philip Morris, the maker of Marlboro; and Brown and Williamson, a subsidiary of *Britain's BAT Industries* — have already obtained a ten-day restraining order in North Carolina. They were *said yesterday to be seeking* further injunctions.

The companies denounced the deal, under which Liggett *settled smoking related health* claims by paying $25 million and a quarter of its pretax profits over the next 25 years. *The other four firms issued a* statement in which they said it was an *effort by* Bennett LeBow, Liggett's owner, to salvage the fortunes of his insolvent company. Despite an immediate impact on stocks, Wall Street analysts also dismissed the Liggett deal as an *event* with little significance for the industry. However, Al Gore, the Vice-President, welcomed the accord as "an historic victory for the American people".

"*This is a media event and* has no relation to the rest of the industry," said Jack Maxwell, an industry analyst.



EPA

Shock tactics: a poster used by Stivoro, a Dutch foundation that promotes healthcare initiatives, to discourage young people *from taking up smoking*

Advance in early detection of cancer

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

AMERICAN *scientists have* identified key chemical changes in the body which promise dramatic improvements in the detection of colon and skin cancers and may transform their treatment.

The "landmark" *findings* by two research teams, reported in this week's edition of *Science, could* have a huge impact on public health. Colon cancer is the third most common cancer among Americans, while *rates* of melanoma, a skin cancer, are increasing due to sunburn.

Both teams report they have *pinpointed* the unusual behaviour of a protein as one of the main reasons why normal *cells become cancerous*. "We believe this is the major initiating event," Kenneth Kinzler of Johns Hopkins Oncology *Centre, one of the co-authors* of the three papers, said.

A cell becomes a cancer when its genetic material has become so mutated, either through inherited defects or outside factors such as diet, that it behaves abnormally. *Scientists* have searched for years for a chemical sign of that turning point. In colon cancer, they have found that *this critical level of mutation* occurs when there are changes in the relative levels of three proteins *in colon cells*.

This sequence of chemical changes may be present in as much as 90 per cent of all cases of colon cancer.

Albanians stop short of declaring breakaway state

From Tom Walker in Tirana

ALBANIA'S southern rebels yesterday stopped short of declaring *an independent republic*, staving off the country's slide towards a north-south conflict.

Sources *close* to the rebels' leader, Agim Gozhita, said a meeting of southern leaders had reiterated the demand for *President Berisha's* resignation. They also said that the post of President should be replaced by a presidential council. *However*, there was no mention of military action against the north, and the rebel council said it recognised the government of Bashkim Fino, the Prime Minister, on condition that he formally distances himself from the President. The council also demanded that Mr Berisha's grip on the media be broken *and that state television be put* under the control of the new Government.

There was no official reac*tion to the meeting yesterday* in Tirana, but sources in the Government applauded the rebels' conciliatory tone. "It's a *step forward*," *said one* opposition chief of Cabinet. "You cannot interpret this in any way as being an attempt to create an *autonomous* southern republic." However, much of the Albanian political class in Tirana is sceptical about *how representative* the rebel committee in the south, and its northern counterpart, are. "There is an influence of people who have lost money, then there are foreign, mainly Greek, interests, and finally *you have army officers*," said Zef Preci, of the Albanian Centre for Economic Research. He said the danger of a Greek *minority-inspired* breakaway republic was very much alive.

☐ **Orphans moved:** The child*ren rescued from Elbasan* were yesterday moved to a block of flats near the British Embassy in Tirana, where *they are being looked after by* Mike and Judy Smith, their British "Home of Hope" guardians.

An embassy spokesman said the orphans were in good spirits, and had recovered from the shock of their dra*matic midnight drive to safety*.

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Residents averted nuclear disaster

By Tom Walker

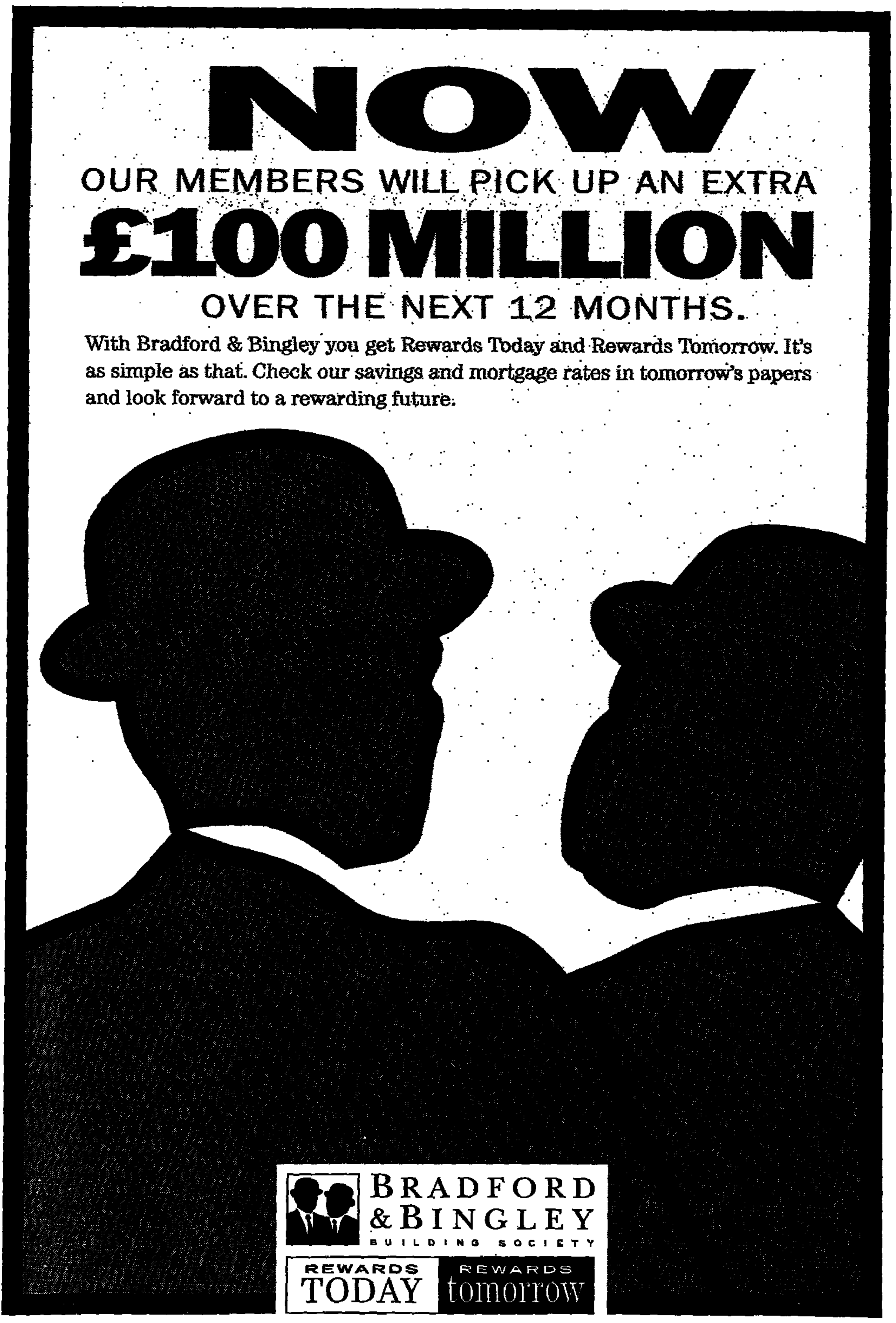
HUNDREDS of Albanian looters are at large with radioactive military materials, oblivious of *the threat to their own health* and posing a new problem for Italian authorities struggling to deal *with the refugee influx*.

Robert Kushe, the director of the Albanian Institute for Nuclear Physics, said yester*day that a nuclear disaster in* the northern suburbs of Tirana was averted last week only by the vigilance of local residents, who fought off drunken gangs intent on ransacking the institute.

The building's central laboratory contains a lead-protected pencil of the radioactive isotope caesium 137. "Any *person who would have taken* this would have been dead within minutes, but the biggest potential danger was fire." *Mr Kushe said*. "The lead would have melted and the whole area around would have been contaminated."

When looters arrived at the institute last Thursday night, local residents who knew of its *deadly contents sprang* to the rescue. Perparim Bastari, who lives near by, "We told them they would kill themselves and they didn't believe us. But we had enough guns and we were strong."

Elsewhere, looters of mili*tary barracks and stores have* made off with an unknown quantity of Soviet and Chinese-made radiometers, con*taining dangerous quantities* of the isotopes cobalt 60 and strontium 85. "Anyone with one of these in his pocket has a problem," Mr Kushe said.



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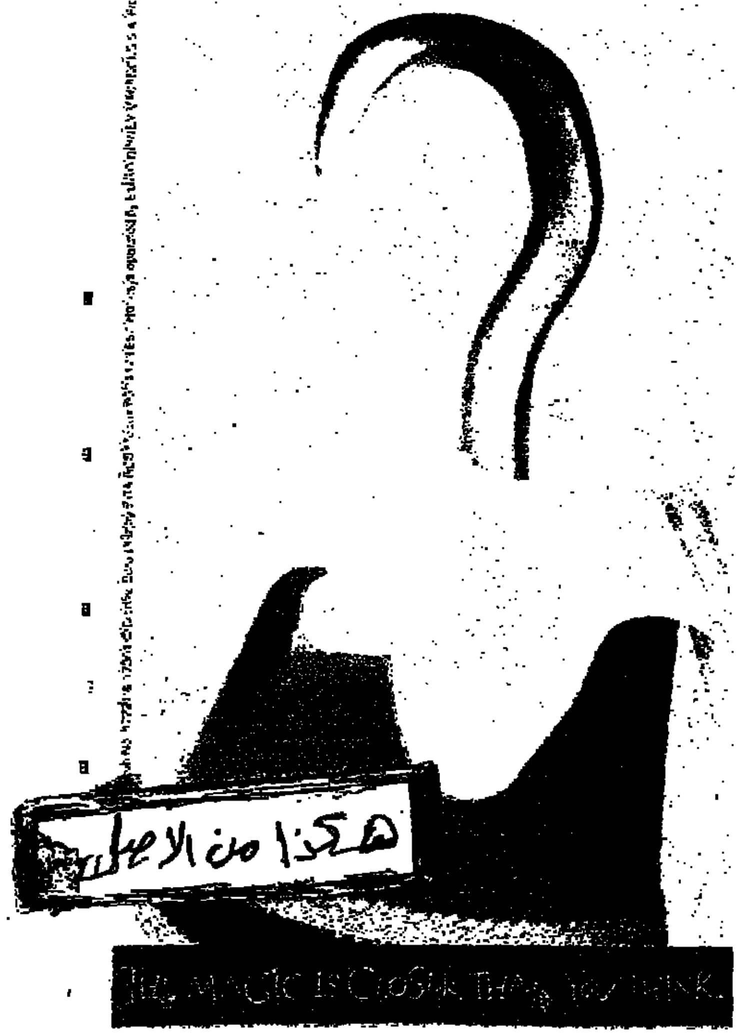


هكذا من الاهرام

Israel says Arafat gave go-ahead to bombers

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

THE Israeli Prime Minister. Binyamin Netanyahu. was last night under pressure from members of his ruling coalition to abandon peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation after a devastating Islamic suicide bomb ripped through a crowded Tel Aviv coffee shop.

Within hours of the blast, members of Tsomet, led by Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff, and the National Religious Party — two key members of the right-wing government — were calling for what little talking was still going on to be halted.

The bomb was planted by a 20-year-old Hamas member from a village near Hebron in the occupied West Bank. Numbed residents of Tel Aviv recalled that last year another suicide bomber had struck during the festive Purim holiday, killing 13 people. "It seems that in one year nothing has changed," said one youth.

Mr Netanyahu went into talks with security chiefs to plan Israel's reaction after he blamed the Palestine Authority led by Yassir Arafat for encouraging the bombers. The Prime Minister said: "We hold the authority responsible for giving the green light and we shall decide on the necessary action to defend ourselves."

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian minister, was asked if there was still a peace process with Israel. "It is very hard to tell if there is one," she replied. "It is on its death bed. I hope there is enough will to try to save it."

To date, the peace deal signed in 1993 between the PLO and Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's late Labour Prime Minister, has proved remarkably resilient despite repeated early obituary notices. However, after the carnage in Tel Aviv yesterday and violent riots in Hebron, its chances of survival now appears slim.

Yesterday's bomber who stared at his victims before detonating his duffle-bag bomb stuffed with nails came from an area still under Israeli military control. Members of Mr Netanyahu's 18-member cabinet have advocated a number of harsh measures, including the expulsion of the extended families of suicide bombers and helicopter commando raids into Palestinian-held areas to kidnap known Islamic leaders.

Palestinian leaders had said repeatedly that Mr Netanyahu's decision last Tuesday to send the bulldozers to start building a settlement at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem for 32,000 Jews would spark widespread violence. Asked whether that move might have contributed to the attack, Mr Netanyahu snapped: "I find that line of questioning obnoxious and immoral."

One of those who saw the full horror of the lunchtime attack which left the palm-shaded coffee house a mass of charred furniture, half-eaten meals and bodies dotted among pools of blood was Shabtai Levanda, 18, who had just returned from a party celebrating Purim, the festival marking the salvation of Jews from the genocide in ancient Persia.

"I saw one woman lying on the ground with her hair on fire. Another lady had lost a hand. There was a baby on the ground and much blood. It was horrible, terrible," he said, still in a state of shock. "I knew something like this was going to happen. The peace process is going nowhere. Nothing is happening."

Mr Netanyahu, who ordered an immediate closure of the West Bank and Gaza, preventing 2.2 million Palestinians from reaching Israel proper, was expected to order other retaliatory measures. "Whoever thinks that those who kill children will frighten us does not know us," he said. "We will deal with these murderers, each and every one of them."

Visiting the wounded in hospital, he added: "The army's security branches had given a warning that terrorist organisations understood that they got a green light from the Palestine Authority and to my sorrow, it has become clear that they were right and the terrorist organisations on the strength of that greenlight, acted.

"I want to say also that the Palestine Authorty did not do a thing, or half a thing to refute that understanding and therefore it bears very heavy responsibility."

Western diplomats noted that recently Tzahi Haneghi, his Justice Minister, hinted in a widely-applauded speech that if violence erupted among Palestinians, Mr Arafat could be sent into exile again or even assassinated. The PLO leader telephoned President Weizman to denounce the Tel Aviv attack.

☐ Helsinki: President Clinton condemned the bombing, but emphasised that the Palestine Authority under Mr Arafat was doing everything it could to fight terrorism (Richard Beeston writes).

"Once again an act of terror has brought death and injury to the people of Israel," the American leader said during a press conference after his summit meeting with President Yeltsin. "I condemn it, I extend my deepest sympathy to the families of those who were killed or injured. There is no place for such acts of terror and violence in the peace process."

He issued a warning that Mr Arafat should not be held accountable. "There must be absolutely no doubt in the minds of the friends or enemies of peace that the Palestine Authority is unalterably opposed to terror and unalterably committed to preventing such acts. This is essential to building meaningful and lasting peace and I will do all I can to achieve that."

A White House official accompanying President Clinton said: "We are all saddened to learn of this explosion. We all know that the way to make progress is not through violence, but through working together. Our thoughts are now with the victims of the Tel Aviv attack and their families."

EYAL WARSHAVSKY, AP PHOTO

An Israeli soldier runs with his uniform on fire from a petrol bomb thrown by Palestinian youths rioting in Hebron. Israeli troops responded by firing into the crowd protesting over Har Homa

Leading article, page 25

Bulldozers push peace to the edge

By Christopher Walker

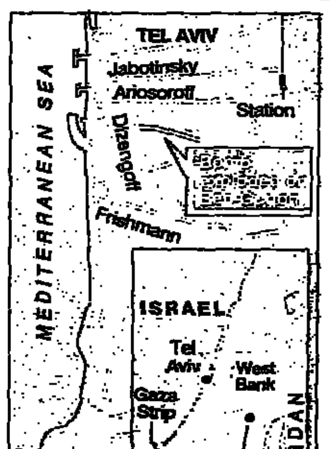
THE Middle East peace process was last night hanging by a thread so slender that any further thoughtless action by Israel or the Palestinians could sever it for good.

If anything is predictable at all in the turbulent region, it was almost a certainty that yesterday would be marked by bloodshed. The Palestinian leadership, enraged by Israel's dispatch this week of bulldozers to build a huge Jewish settlement in annexed east Jerusalem, had called for widespread protests.

The depth of animosity among the Palestinians and the Arab world was summed up by the Egyptian paper *al-Ahram*. "The construction of the Har Homa settlement represents both a violation of the peace accords and a criminal destruction of a biblical landscape," it said.

Hanan Ashrawi, a leading Palestinian minister, was quick to point out yesterday that the leadership had repeatedly given warnings of the poisoning effect of Israel's "irresponsible policies" on the Palestinian mood.

The same view was expressed only 48 hours before the Tel Aviv explosion by Nahum Barnea, Israel's leading columnist who lost a son in one of last year's Islamic suicide-bomb attacks in Jerusalem. Of the decision by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to proceed with the Har Homa settlement in the face of international condemnation, Mr Barnea said: "Yesterday's bulldozer could easily turn into tomorrow's terror attack." He added: "The confrontation at Har Homa was not born out of sensitivity to the housing needs in Jerusalem, but out of excessive politics. The right wing pressured Netanyahu hard. Given the choice between the continuation of the peace process and the continuation of the Government, Netanyahu preferred Government. He cannot be blamed for it. Yet it is difficult to praise."



Ashrawi: leadership warned Israel

Even as ambulance sirens were wailing along the leafy boulevards of Tel Aviv, Israeli and Palestinian leaders were mouthing their condemnations.

The Palestinians pointed out that they had given warnings even before the bulldozers started to cut turf on the pine-studded hillside that the Har Homa project would create an "explosion". Their standpoint is that Har Homa is more than a simple settlement: 6,500 homes, hotels and industrial parks will build an Israeli ring of concrete around Jerusalem, cutting off the holy city from the occupied West Bank.

Mr Netanyahu was equally justified in reminding the world that he had issued warnings in the face of American denials that Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Authority President, had given the "green light" to extremists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad to resume their suicide attacks. He made his point clear in a letter to President Clinton which appeared in the Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot* hours before the explosion.

"Arafat talks about 'spontaneous' responses on the part of the Palestinian public, but we know he controls what transpires on the ground. This means more than the encouragement of demonstrations. There is conclusive evidence attesting to collaboration with the Hamas and Islamic Jihad," he writes.

His "Dear Bill" letter adds: "As part of this co-operation, Arafat released 120 terrorists, including the notorious Ibrahim Makadma [a well-known Hamas commander]. This was at variance with an explicit American warning against such releases. The freeing of such 'military' leaders from Hamas is tantamount to giving a green light to terror. The act prompts the collapse of the peace process."

Delhi steps up war on traffic pollution

From Christopher Thomas in Delhi

POLLUTION and road chaos, the two defining characteristics of modern Delhi, are being tackled in an intensive police drive.

The Indian Government has set an April 15 deadline for vehicles in the capital to get a pollution-check certificate. Cars, scooters and lorries without a sticker will not be allowed to buy petrol after that date.

More than 200,000 owners of cars and scooters visited 218 pollution control stations across the city this week to get the certificate, a Delhi Transport Ministry official said.

The annual death toll from air pollution is officially put at 7,500, and the carnage on India's roads is the world's worst at 60,000 deaths a year.

Without drastic action, pollution could make the city all but uninhabitable in a decade. It is already one of the world's foulest places, and the River Yamuna, once the city's pride, is little more than a sewer — and no amount of purification can make the water fully safe for drinking. This realisation is causing near panic among the city's educated upper classes, who have turned to expensive bottled water. Rajendra Gupta, Delhi's Transport Minister, said: "The mounting pollution level is . . . leading to the birth of premature and even deformed babies."

Two million of the 2.8 million vehicles on Delhi's roads are two-wheelers, which cause the greatest pollution because of inefficient two-stroke engines. The booming car and scooter industries follow lax standards for exhaust emissions, and the problem is exacerbated by the use of low-quality fuel. Unleaded petrol has only recently arrived, but few people use it.

Police have been instructed to impound polluting vehicles, but sceptics wonder whether the crackdown will work because of the inclination of police officers to take bribes. One hundred rupees (about £2) is normally sufficient to avoid a ticket for a traffic offence.

The destruction of the Yamuna, a holy river to Hindus, is all but complete. But then bribing the authorities is cheaper than observing safe disposal arrangements.

the daughter, 44, left for hospital treatment. (*AP*)

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Park, is Captain Hook.

Every day we will bring to life the
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with characters from the film and
over 150 [illegible]
Even Sleeping Beauty's Castle is
[illegible]
jesters' hats and flags.

[illegible]
especially for our birthday year.
[illegible] Festival
of Flowers will take your breath
away [illegible] floral sculptures.
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Eighty years have not tamed Verdun killing fields

Greatest battle of attrition in history still claims victims

From Ben Macintyre in Verdun

HULTON GETTY

Verdun, 1916: the war to end all wars has left shells, grenades and gas bombs, the grim postscript to a terrible mutual massacre among the French and the Germans

MORE *than* 80 years after the guns fell silent at Verdun the *death toll from that epic First* World War slaughter continues to mount, for beneath the former battlefield lies an immense arsenal of rusting but unexploded shells.

Last month two men were killed when they found and apparently tampered with a live bomb, one of millions left over from the Battle of Verdun in *1916. A dozen* others have died *in the same way* over *the past five years after stumbling* across intact shells, grenades *and gas bombs, the grim* postscript to a terrible mutual massacre.

On February 21, 1916, the German *Army* launched *its* assault on the French lines at Verdun with a massive artillery attack, "an intense nine-hour bombardment, unprecedented in warfare", in the words of the British historian, Martin Gilbert.

Over the next nine months the deadlocked armies hurled 23 million shells at one another. "Their bombardment is infernal … ," one French officer recorded.

In the first month German *soldiers died at the rate* of one every 45 seconds, but the French troops were killed even faster as the Kaiser's generals *tried time and again to break* through and march on Paris.

More than 650,000 soldiers perished at Verdun, "the *greatest battle of attrition in* history", in a conflict that has *left behind not only an eternal* memorial to the pointless horror *of war but also* a fantastic quantity of explosives.

At least one fifth of the shells fired at Verdun, roughly 45 million separate explosives, did not detonate but vanished from sight into the soft earth, taking their murderous payloads with them.

"We will never, ever, be able to make this place safe," says Henry Bélot, the head of the Metz-based bomb disposal squad whose daunting job it is to find intact munitions in the battlefields of northern France, defuse them, destroy *them or, in the case of chemical* weapons, store them until *international law decides their* fate.

Last year alone M Bélot and his team collected a staggering 130 tonnes of unexploded ordnance: small anti-personnel missiles, massive French "220" cannon shells weighing 400lb apiece, phosgene and mustard gas canisters. Every ploughed field turns up a fresh crop of bombs, *every freeze* and thaw sends shells burrow*ing back to the surface*, the locals say.

"*If they could be left to rot*, there would be little danger. But people collect them, carry them home, put them in their gardens for children to play with or try to take them apart," M Bélot says. "These things don't go off on their own. Every year someone is *killed. They don't know what* they are doing."

As the livid purple scars on M Bélot's neck attest, the *weapons are fickle enemies* even for the most experienced *démineur*. A former army explosives expert, M Bélot has himself been gassed three times handling the canisters.

In a single morning this week, the latter-day sappers collected more than 40 shells *from the fields around the tiny* village of Champneuville, *once the heart of the Verdun* battlefield. Whenever the villagers find shells, they call out M Bélot and his team. If the munitions are considered too dangerous to move, they are exploded on the spot but usually they are loaded on to the back of a lorry, taken to an army base and blown up.

"We find them all the time," *says Jean-Pierre Dubeaux*, Mayor of Champneuville. "*But in the summer the tourists* come, looking for souvenirs." M Dubeaux recalls that he once came across a party of German holidaymakers loading three French 155 shells into the back of their Mercedes, parked next to the village petrol pump.

The latest casualties of the battle were two non-commis*sioned officers from a helicopter* regiment who had apparently wandered off the path through a wood and come across some shells. "We still don't know exactly what they were doing," M Bélot shrugs glumly.

The torrent of artillery unleashed at Verdun literally saturated the landscape at the rate of one bomb for every square yard, reducing nine *individual* villages to mud and sowing the ground with metal and explosive. About 24,000 acres were declared high-danger *zone rouge* — a colour chosen, according to M Dubeaux, to commemorate "*all the blood that was spilt*". In 1923 the French Government began to reafforest much of the land. "But when people leave the paths, that's when they face most danger," says M Bélot.

Shells and gas are not the only danger. At the end of the war, entrances to the network of underground tunnels built *by both sides* were covered over and their exact location often forgotten. "The wood has rotted," says M Dubeaux, pointing to a hole that was once, he says, the entrance to an underground field hospital. "Fall into one of those and you'll stay there."

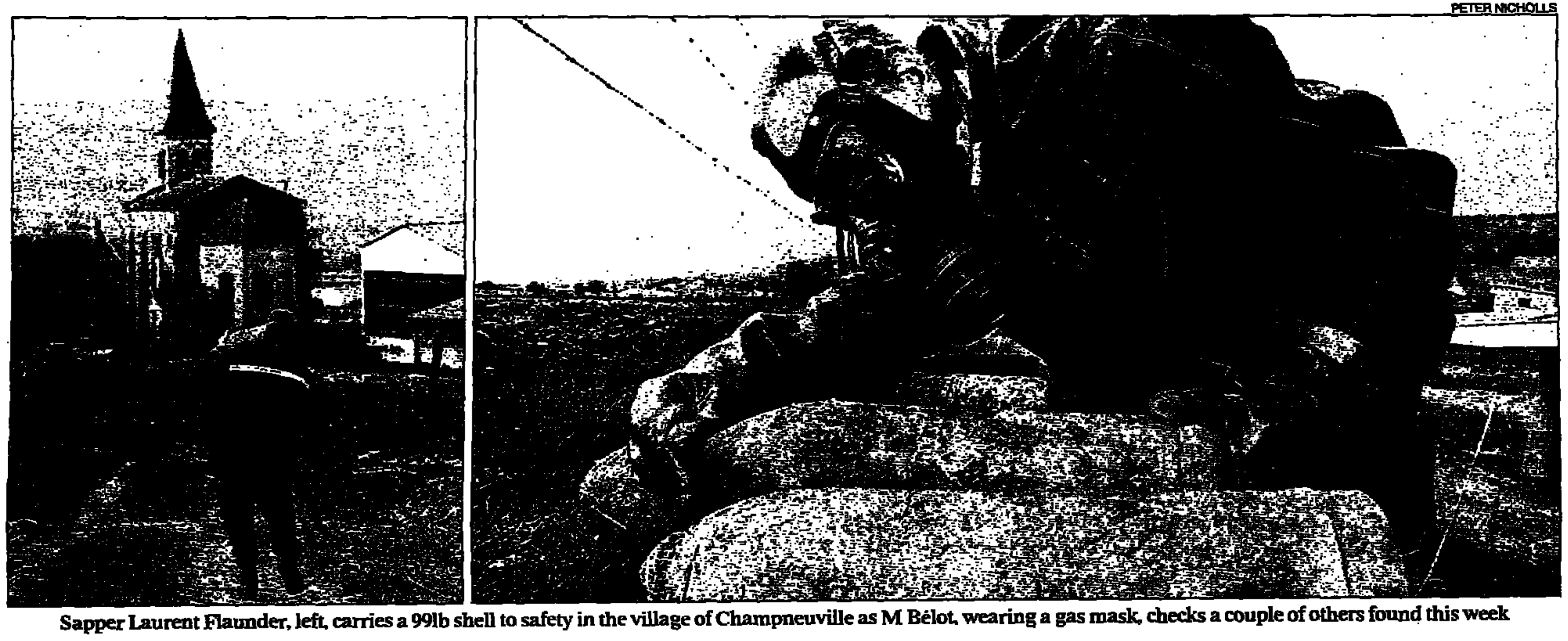
Looking out over the tranquil green fields of Verdun, it is hard to imagine this as the setting for killing and heroism *on such a scale. It was here* that General Philippe Pétain *declared "they shall not pass"*, and here, too, that the young Charles de Gaulle was taken prisoner.

Verdun *is* to the collective memory of France what the Somme is to Britain: a monument, a scar and a warning.

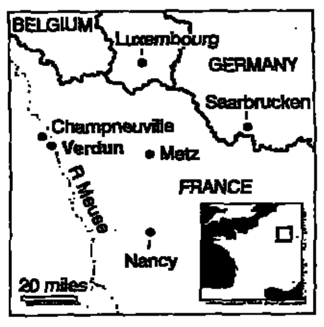
At the end of the day, the sappers' lorry bumps off down the track through Champneuville, with more than half a tonne of earth-caked explosives in the *back*, enough to reduce this village to the same *razed state* it was left in at the end of 1916.

As Alistair Horne has written: "Neither side 'won' at *Verdun*. It was the indecisive battle in an indecisive war; the unnecessary battle in an unnecessary war; the battle that had no victors, in a war that had no victors."

The death and injury that still stalks Verdun today may be an apt symbol of that bloody futility, a powerful reminder that the destruction wrought by the war to end all wars is not quite over.


PETER NICHOLLS

Sapper Laurent Flaunder, left, carries a 99lb shell to safety in the village of Champneuville as M Bélot, wearing a gas mask, checks a couple of others found this week



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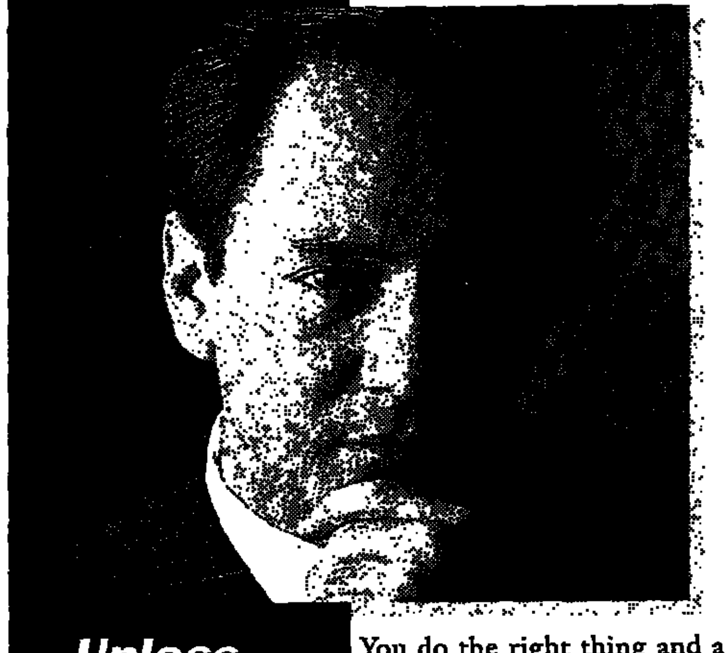

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Clinton determined not to be pushed around by Russia in Finland

Clinton: a sitting target for cartoonists

From Michael Binyon in Helsinki

SUMMIT SKETCH

THE wheelchair summit, as even American officials are now calling it, is giving President Clinton's image-makers an impossible task.

How can they keep the cartoonists and their metaphors at bay? How can they stop President Yeltsin from trying to push his ailing rival not only around the world stage, but also around the corridors where they are meeting?

It is bad enough that all talk of Mr Clinton standing tall, striding forward or marching shoulder to shoulder with the Russian leader has to be banned; the Americans also decided that they would not allow their man to be pictured sitting down while Mr Yeltsin towered above him. The cameras were therefore not allowed into the elegant presidential residence by the Baltic until both men were in their chairs.

Whether Boris really offered to push Bill's chair is unclear. But there was a heated pre-summit discussion among the American minders and diplomats. "Absolutely not," a senior figure was heard to say. "It's completely out of the question." The defensive note never quite escaped officials. "The President continues to enjoy the realities of adjusting to summitry in a wheelchair," Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, announced, po-faced, yesterday.

Mr Clinton was not feeling his best in any case after his night at the Intercontinental hotel. "I had a terrible night," he told Mr Yeltsin. "I thought you'd hired an extra large Finn to jump up and down on the ceiling above my room."

The problem, it turned out, was simpler but no less Finnish: someone was using the hotel sauna above his suite, and the pipes kept clanking on and off.

He may also have been peckish. The dinner *à trois* given by President Ahtisaari on Thursday was a medically approved low-fat menu to ensure that nothing put a strain on Mr Yeltsin's heart: consomme, fish and reindeer. But both Mr Ahtisaari, a comfortably padded figure, and Mr Clinton, a renowned trencherman, are also under official orders to watch their weight, so they too were forbidden second helpings.

There was a choice of fine wine, though traditional Russian secrecy did not reveal whether Mr Yeltsin succumbed to the temptation. In Helsinki's bars and restaurants a special "Boris" concoction, named in his honour by enterprising barmen who have dreamt up a special cocktail for each of the three leaders, is far outselling the other two. Finland's leading vodka producer has even produced a summit vodka, and 10,000 bottles of the purest Finlandia carry a commemorative label — each one, alas, giving the wrong date, as they were printed before Mr Clinton's injury delayed the meeting.

But if the leaders were sparing with their toasts, they were generous with mutual praise.

"I think we'll have a good meeting," Mr Clinton said before he started the talks.

"I think both sides are ready to meet each other," Mr Yeltsin echoed. And with just a touch of his old earthy rumbustiousness, the Russian leader added: "Yesterday we warmed each other up, so that today there won't be such tensions at the negotiations."

They probably enjoyed the soothing Baltic views from the presidential residence. The award-winning granite, glass and pine building, completed only four years ago, is intended to suggest the craggy bedrock of Finland after the Ice Age receded. Last night it was also the setting for the dinner that Mr Clinton offered Mr Yeltsin. All the Finnish crockery was hastily put away, and replaced by boxloads of White House china.

Leading article, page 25

ALEXANDRE DEMYANCHUCK / REUTER

Naina Yeltsin, centre, wife of the Russian leader, is accompanied by President Ahtisaari of Finland on a shopping trip in Helsinki yesterday

Summit leaders put on brave face over Nato impasse

From Richard Beeston in Moscow

THE Helsinki summit meeting between President Clinton and President Yeltsin ended in deadlock yesterday when the two men failed to resolve their deep-seated differences on the future of European security.

In a meeting which could mark a turning point in post-Cold War history, the Russian and American leaders agreed to disagree over Nato's contentious plans to extend its membership eastwards.

In spite of warm handshakes, friendly remarks and a commitment to forge ahead in several areas of arms control and economic co-operation, the progress which has characterised the ten previous meetings between the two men was absent this time in Helsinki.

"We did not come expecting to change each other's minds about disagreements, but we both did come here hoping to find a way of shifting the accent of our disagreement to the goals, tasks and opportunities we share — and we have succeeded," said Mr Clinton, describing the modest achievements of his negotiations.

Speaking after a day of intensive talks at the Finnish President's residence, Mr Clinton dismissed suggestions that his daylong efforts had been a failure and insisted that they had "succeeded" in laying the groundwork for future co-operation.

On the question of Nato expansion, it was agreed that Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, will work on producing a Nato-Russia document in the coming weeks. The agreement, to be signed by all 16 Nato members, would grant Russia the right to co-ordinate with the alliance on policymaking and give Moscow assurances that no nuclear weapons or military infrastructure would be deployed on the territory of the new member states, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

Mr Yeltsin, who reiterated that the move was a "serious mistake", sounded resigned rather than enthusiastic about the fudge that he had just concluded. "I would say that emotions sometimes get the upper hand in assessing Russian-American partnership," he said. "We want to overcome that which divided us for decades. We want to do away with the past mistrust and animosity. We can't accomplish this immediately."

Mr Clinton said that the greatest achievement of the summit was an agreement to limit Russian and American strategic nuclear weapons under Start 3 to 2,000-2,500 each by 2007, a reduction of 80 per cent compared with the Cold War peak.

However, the new treaty can only come into effect once the Russian Duma, the lower house of parliament, ratifies the Start 2 treaty, a move which seem highly doubtful given that the assembly is currently dominated by communist hardliners.

One area where there appeared to be genuine progress was on economic relations. The Americans have pledged to help Russia's entry into the World Trade Organisation and the Paris Club. Also, Mr Clinton said that the forthcoming meeting of the G7 in Denver, would now be known as the "Summit of the Eight" because Russia would have a seat at the table.

Nevertheless, the careful wording and upbeat declarations of the two men could not disguise the problems ahead. Russia is expected to reach a compromise on Nato enlargement because it has little choice in the matter. In addition, the Russian leader will have little he can take home to Moscow today and sell to his disgruntled population as a victory.

For Mr Yeltsin, Helsinki will be remembered as the summit where he proved to the world that he is very much back on physical form and capable of dealing with complex matters of international security and trade. He also proved that, however heated the rhetoric with the West over Nato, he still has a good working relationship with Mr Clinton.

For the American leader, the two-day trip to Finland proved that he has much work left to do in Europe in the second half of his presidency.

'Step forward' hailed

Brussels: Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, who is mandated with negotiating a Nato-Russia pact, praised the summit as a major step forward in developing a more secure and peaceful Europe.

An official statement by Nato said Señor Solana was "especially encouraged" by President Yeltsin's commitment to conclude a deal with the alliance in the near future.

Señor Solana, who is negotiating the pact to go hand in hand with the alliance's eastwards expansion, is due to meet Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, for more talks next month.

Nato officials said that, although there was no deal on enlargement at the summit, it appeared Mr Yeltsin had been assured Russia would not be left out of a new post-Cold War security order.

Strobe Talbott, US Assistant Secretary of State, will brief Nato's 16 ambassadors on the summit at a meeting in Brussels today. "The overall climate looked good, and it seems there has been progress across the field," said a senior Nato official. He said President Clinton's number one goal — to convince Mr Yeltsin Nato was not hostile — had been met. *(Reuter)*

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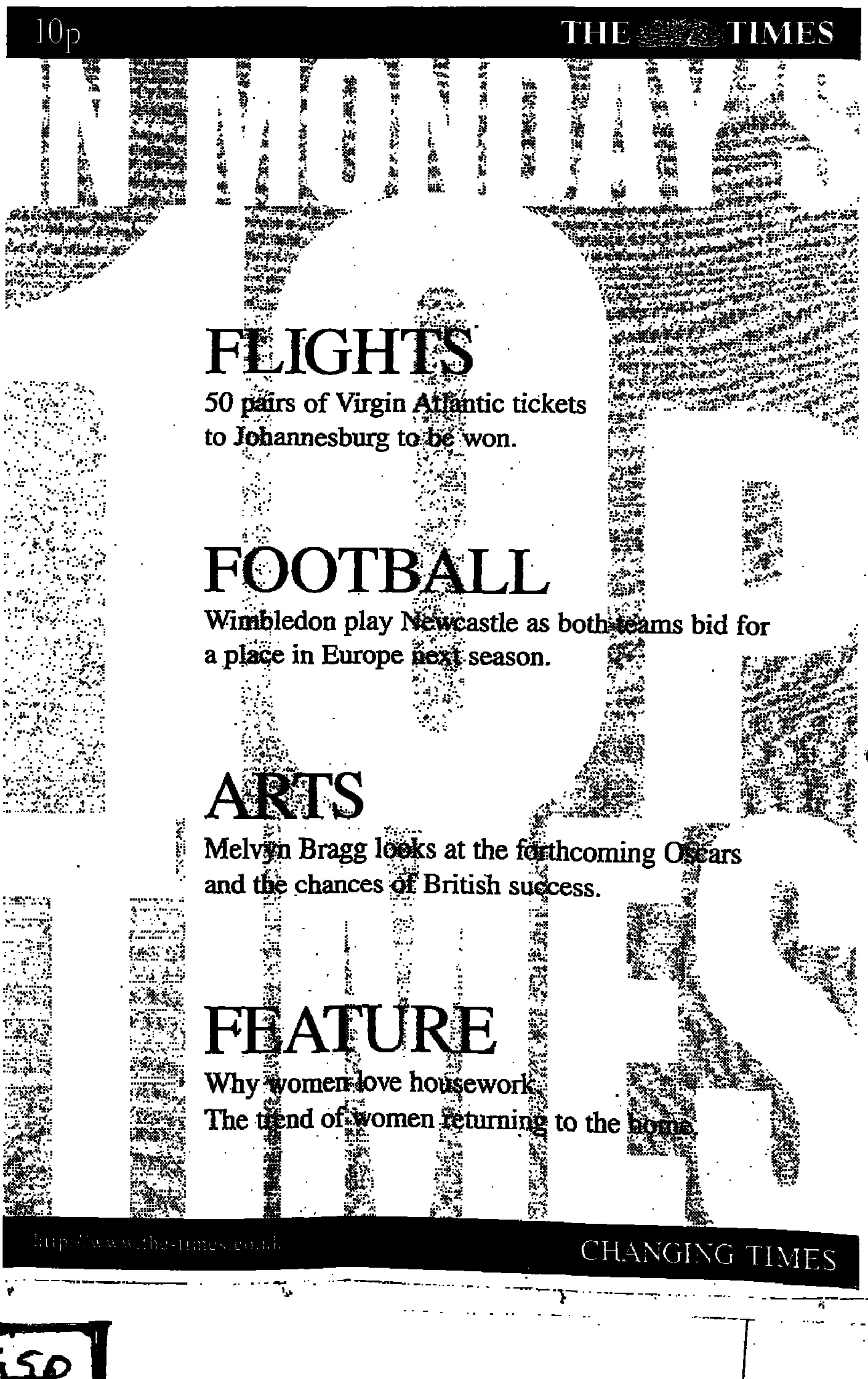

10p THE TIMES

IN MONDAY'S

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FOOTBALL
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ARTS
Melvyn Bragg looks at the forthcoming Oscars and the chances of British success.

FEATURE
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CHANGING TIMES

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After defence and women's equality, Elisabeth Rehn enters the fray for UN human rights role

Infighter faces new contest

HELSINKI FILE
by MICHAEL BINYON

THE race to succeed José Ayala Lasso, the United Nations' lacklustre first High Commissioner for Human Rights, is being led by two women: one still serving as her country's President, the other who narrowly missed winning the presidency two years ago.

If Elisabeth Rehn wins over Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland, she will continue a long Finnish tradition of high office in the United Nations. Her countrymen, naturally, are rooting for her.

She very nearly became President, having been the favourite in the brief campaign which she fought against Martti Ahtisaari, now the host at the Yeltsin-Clinton summit. But she peaked too early — upset, perhaps, by a television question on whether anyone had the intellectual right to doubt that Jesus existed. "Yes," she said. Lutheran Finland did not agree.

She went instead to Strasbourg, a leader of Finland's MEPs who took their seats after Finland joined the European Union — but did not stand again.

Instead, she now has a full-time job as the first special rapporteur for human rights in the former Yugoslavia. She left Helsinki yesterday for another visit looking at the slow and painful progress towards family reunion and refugee rights in Bosnia, monitoring the growing tensions in Kosovo and attempting to hold the former warring parties to their commitments.

"There is a real worry now about the Albanians in Kosovo. She is pessimistic about the situation there," Bjorn Teir, her political assistant, said.

Mrs Rehn, 61, comes from a minority herself. She is a Swedish speaker, part of the 6 per cent minority in Finland who once wielded disproportionate social and economic influence but have seen their status and language eroded.

She was leader of the Swedish People's Party in Parliament, and managed to combine a gracious and demure image as a wife and mother of four with some tough political infighting. Rivals in her centre-right party wanted to outmanoeuvre her in 1990 by naming her Defence Minister for an interim period.

Instead, she served for four and a half years — a postwar record in the job — during which Finland's entire defence strategy changed. The Gulf War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and independence for the Baltic states all necessitated a rethink of traditional neutrality.

She travelled to Russia and America, played hostess to Richard Cheney, the US Defence Secretary, in Lapland, and bought $4 billion (£2.5 billion) worth of F18 fighter planes in 1991 — a 10-year commitment that was twice the annual defence budget.

AFP

Elisabeth Rehn: combines a gracious and demure image as a wife and mother with tough political skills

Elegant, feminine and soft-spoken, her time at defence belied the image of a politician for soft issues: the Red Cross, Unicef, Third World development and the World Wide Fund for Nature. She used to fly aerobatics with air force pilots; she went out in a search party for a sunken amphibious armoured personnel carrier. She even tried to gatecrash a strategy planning sauna of her flustered top generals with the words: "Do you have anything to hide?"

But while holding the masculine defence portfolio, she was also Minister for Women's Equality. She is now as likely to speak out on women's issues as on defence, where she is an outspoken — and still rare — advocate of a more hawkish policy, including full membership of Nato (anathema to Moscow).

Mrs Rehn reports regularly to Geneva on the abuses, human rights violations and pitiful living conditions she finds now in Bosnia and other parts of former Yugoslavia. If she succeeds in winning the post of UN High Commissioner, she intends to give greater profile to the job that, under its first incumbent from Ecuador, has so far made little headway in ending human rights abuses throughout the world.

Finnish appeal to Latin lovers

AFTER a final check to mark in the long vowels and polish the syntax, the two newsreaders began with the summit: *"Praesidentes Bill Clinton et Boris Yeltsin Helsinkium venerunt, ut die Veneris de summis rebus consilia communicarent ..."*

Latin listeners the world over had their radios tuned to Finland for *Nuntii Latini*, the world's only weekly five-minute bulletin in the language of Cicero.

"Actually it's not really Ciceronian Latin; more medieval," Dr Reijo Pitkaranta, Reader in Latin at the University of Helsinki, admitted. "We want to be as clear to listeners as possible." Neologisms are a constant problem, and a focus of the hundreds of letters *Nuntii Latini* receives each week.

It is seven years since Dr Pitkaranta and Professor Pekkanen of Jyvaskyla University began their *jeu d'esprit* — a joke that has now won a world audience, especially in Italy, America and the Vatican.

It goes out on domestic and short-wave radio, and has brought Finnish broadcasting more attention than anything else it does.

Three books of collected broadcasts have been published and the Finns — never part of the Roman Empire — are to host the prestigious five-yearly gathering of world Latinists this August. Now schools are turning to the classical web site: (http://www.yle.fi/fbc/latini.html).

Surgical gloves 'let in viruses'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

RUBBER gloves worn by surgeons and medical workers are not nearly as safe as is widely believed, according to an American study.

Many brands of latex gloves were found to be porous to certain viruses and the gloves, having been seen as an ally of cleanliness, may be to blame for some dangerous infections.

The use of gloves in hospitals and medical centres has increased in recent years, due to the rise in Aids, but a study by the Medical Device Technologies, in San Diego, found failings in 11 different popular brands tested in the survey. Many showed a tendency to leak within minutes of a water test, when the gloves were filled with liquid.

More than 20 per cent of the gloves had been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, yet these, too, proved unequal to the task of stopping the spread of germs.

The FDA said it had not yet studied the results of the survey.

About two million hospital patients a year in America become infected during treatment and 77,000 are said to die as a result. One doctor yesterday described hospitals, even in America, as "notorious germ factories".

Dr Jeffrey Lerner, of Ecri, a Pennsylvania-based medical safety charity, yesterday urged patients not to panic. "Most surgeons nowadays tend to double glove," he pointed out. "There is a certain failure rate permitted by the authorities for latex gloves and I would say there is only extremely low probability of infection from inferior gloves." Most latex gloves used in the US are made in Malaysia, he said. He was satisfied that manufacturers were keeping pace with heightened demand.

Athens orders subway halt

Athens: Work on a mile-long stretch of the planned Athens underground has been suspended after alleged cost overruns and complaints that the tunnelling is destroying priceless relics.

The Environment Ministry ordered a halt to work on the section from central Syntagma Square to Kerameikos, claiming that the contracting consortium was demanding too much money. The move heartened archaeologists, who said the cemetery at Kerameikos was being destroyed. The site dates from Pericles, the politician born in 490 BC.

Crowd chaos closes Florence museums

BY RICHARD OWEN

A MASSIVE crush of visitors forced the temporary closure of two of Florence's most celebrated museums, a week before Italy's annual Easter tourist invasion.

Both the Uffizi Gallery and the Galleria dell'Accademia, which houses Michelangelo's *David*, had to close their doors amid scenes of chaos. However, city officials said that the situation would be under control for Easter. Antonio Paolucci, Superintendent of Fine Arts, said that Thursday had been "Florence's day of hell". The museums had been unable to cope with the combined pressure of foreign tourists and Italian schoolchildren, who are entitled by law to visit museums free.

"Unruly children" had run amok, breaking fire extinguishers and smashing lavatories. "I cannot believe they managed to do so much damage," Signor Paolucci said. None of the works of art was damaged.

Custodians at the Uffizi, which houses Renaissance masterpieces, sounded the alarm when they saw a "record number of visitors" packed into the space in front of the gallery. Licia Bertani, a custodian, said that some visitors had panicked on learning that the ticket office closed at 6pm, and were determined to get in.

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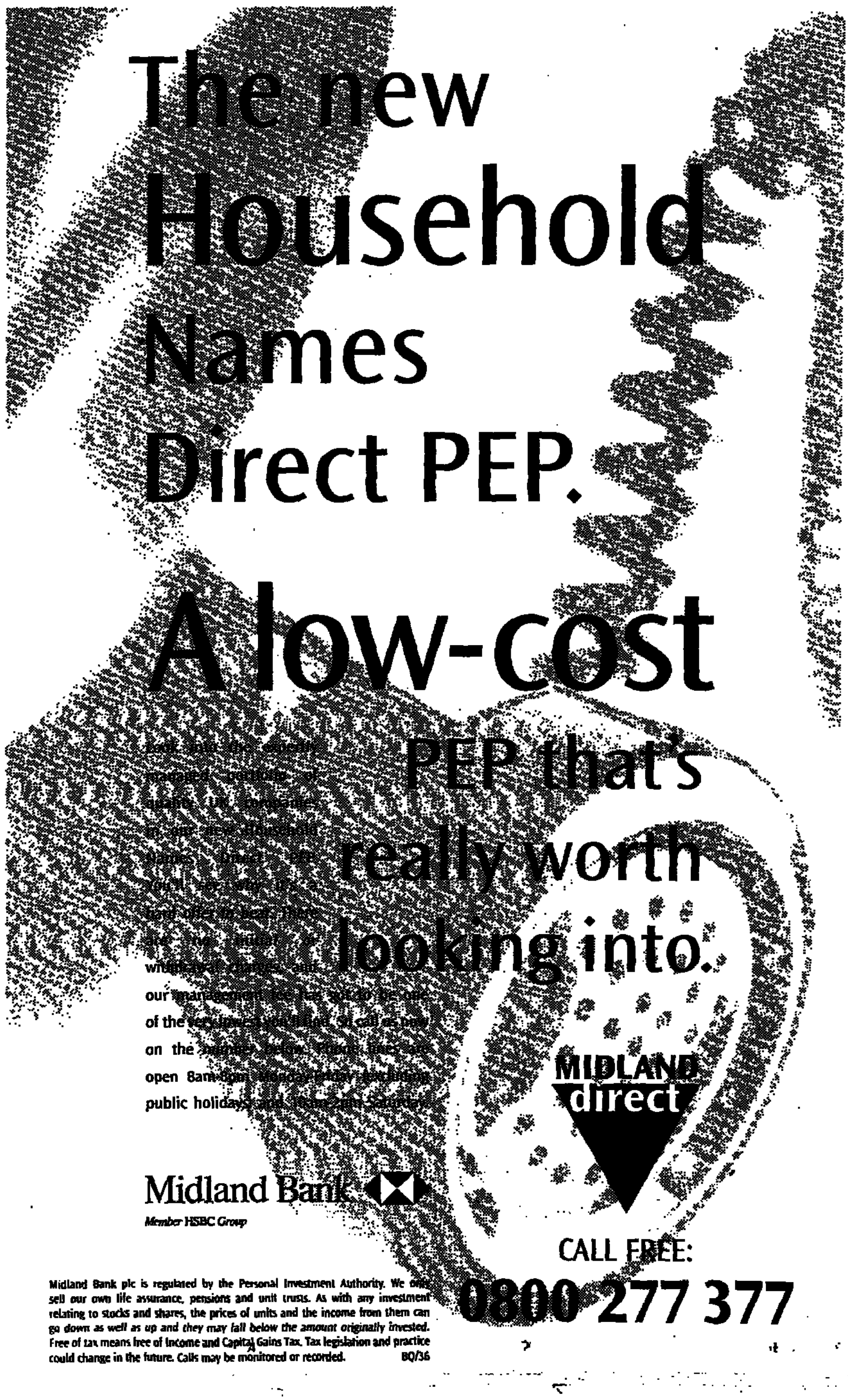

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■ MUSIC

John Harle takes one of the solo saxophone parts as *Horn Horn* is premiered in Liverpool

■ MUSEUMS

Captain Cook's voyages are commemorated in a fine new show at the National Maritime Museum

THE TIMES ARTS

■ WHAT'S ON

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. . . to Aussie singer Peter André on tour: the weekend's top events are in The Directory

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Liverpool

FULFILLING all the Liverpool requirements of new music — concerted saxophone sound, jazz rhythms allied with minimalist repetition, a smart title — Andrew Poppy's *Horn Horn* was greeted with all due cordiality on its introduction to the Philharmonic Hall. If it seemed rather long long, *Horn Horn* was consistently entertaining at least as a study in the compatibility of the two alto saxophonists.

Harnessed together for much of the time, in rhythmic if not harmonic unison, John Harle and Simon Haram were each allowed the occasional opportunity to emerge on a comparatively thoughtful solo line from their joint virtuoso endeavours. Brief and few though those moments of individuality are, they usefully offset the heavy industrial activity which, between the deceptively opening and closing bars, characterises the score as a whole. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra might have felt that it had been there before — as in some ways it has in its recent work on behalf of Glass, Fitkin and Gardiner — but it betrayed no hint of any such thing in an admirably high-energy all-or-nothing first performance.

Sachio Fujioka is a conductor well suited to that kind of thing. In Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* no less than in Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony he was effective in highlighting the dramatic event, in intensifying the dynamic pressure, in hammering home the structural nails. He did not, on the other hand, secure the most attractive sound the RLPO can offer. Indeed, there were times in the Prokofiev when the violins were unacceptably gruff, the cellos in disarray, the brass overprominent, the balance generally awry. And yet there were also moments when unconventional balance revealed not only unfamiliar textural details but also a more mordant kind of irony than is commonly attributed to this work. If only he could have got the rest of the orchestra to play as persuasively for him as the woodwind did, it could have been an illuminating interpretation.

GERALD LARNER

Combining the practical and the atmospheric detail from William Hodges's painting of two of Captain Cook's ships in Matavai Bay, Tahiti

Cook's tour of beauty

A replica *Endeavour* and records of the captain's travels are set to dock in London. **Peter Davies** reports

On Tuesday a full-scale replica of Captain Cook's famous ship *Endeavour* arrives at Tower Bridge for a three-week London visit (from Friday she will be berthed at Greenwich) before embarking on a 14-port tour of the United Kingdom. Constructed in Australia to the same specifications as Cook's ship — though enjoying the advantage of engines — this *Endeavour* was launched in Fremantle in December 1993 and has sailed to Britain via South Africa, St Helena and Madeira.

The National Maritime Museum is complementing the visit with an exhibition, *Cook and the Endeavour*, that displays 18th-century charts, paintings, models and personal effects. These illustrate Cook's Pacific expeditions, as well as the background which created the man, his ships, his backers and those painters who have conferred immortality on his exploits.

Dominating the visual material are the paintings of William Hodges, who accompanied Cook on the second of his voyages from 1772 onwards. The artist who had been with the *Endeavour* voyage of 1768-71 was Sydney Parkinson. His remit was, however, the very necessary, if limiting, one of recording the botanical specimens which had been collected by Sir Joseph Banks, who had bullied the Royal Society and the Admiralty into letting him join Cook's expedition at his own expense. Fortunately for history, when Cook mounted his second expedition Banks came to the conclusion that he had had enough of life at sea and Parkinson's services were not required.

Wanting something more from an artist than a mere recorder of fauna and flora, Cook accepted the services of Hodges, a rising landscape painter who had learnt his art in the studio of Richard Wilson. He could scarcely have made a better choice. Hodges brought to his land and seascapes the atmospheric, Claudesque manner of his master, Wilson. But in the course of a long sea voyage, he acquired something of the naval officer's exactitude of eye. Details such as native war canoes, the rigging of ships and the pitching of the expedition's tents on shore are rendered with scientific precision.

The Hodges paintings fall into two categories. There are small-scale studies, completed on the spot, in which exactitude of detail is the paramount consideration. The large canvases, done when Hodges got home (he was given two years' employment by the Admiralty at £250 per annum) are, rather, a case of emotion recollected in tranquillity.

Combining both Hodges's practical and his "atmospheric" modes is *A View of the Cape of Good Hope from on board the* Resolution (1772). The draughtsmanship of the Cape settlement and its compact mass of dwellings is admirably executed. But, up above, the atmospherist takes over in the grim crags of Table Mountain and the storm clouds swirling about them.

An interesting comparison is to be made between Hodges's portrait of Cook, *Captain James Cook*, and the much more famous picture of *Captain James Cook, RN, FRS*, by Sir Nathaniel Dance. In the second, we have a formalised study of the naval hero, conscious of achievement and honour. But from Hodges we get the practical mariner, a man with a job to do, soundings to take, surveys to make, and a shipload of men to get home in one piece.

● Cook and the Endeavour *is at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE10 (0181-858 4422) from Monday to Sept 28*

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the daughter, 44, left for hospital treatment. *(AP)*

[illegible]

■ OPINION

Leave well alone: turning Elgar's deathbed sketches into a symphony would be a travesty

■ THEATRE

At the Old Vic Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine* explores sexual ambiguity in a fine revival

THE TIMES ARTS

■ POP

Mike Henderson displays his blues credentials, and a surprise guest, at the Borderline

■ ON MONDAY

The Brits are coming? Melvyn Bragg assesses our chances of carrying off a clutch of Oscars

Don't tinker with Elgar's last notes

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Was there a small earth tremor in the lovely churchyard of Little Malvern this week? If so, it must have been Sir Edward Elgar turning in his grave, as news filtered down through the daffodils that his Third Symphony is to be "completed" by Anthony Payne.

Payne, a decent composer but (until now) a name unlikely to be uttered in the same breath as Elgar's, apparently has the blessing of the "Elgar family": a bunch of second-generation acolytes, none of them direct descendants. More alarmingly, he also appears to have the endorsement of the BBC, which commissioned the dying Elgar to write a Third Symphony in 1933 and now intends to premiere something masquerading under that title in 1998.

With almost his last breath, Elgar forbade "tinkering" with his Third Symphony sketches. Anyone who has examined them, and has any knowledge of Elgar's complex and intuitive way of working out his symphonic thoughts, will understand why. They are an incoherent jumble of raw ideas, barely formed. The tragedy is not that Elgar never lived to pull them together, but that he surely knew all along that he was incapable of rekindling his creative fire, extinguished 14 years earlier when his wife died.

But Elgar was always short of money, and he was also a master of kidology. Witness his endless supply of red herrings about the *Enigma Variations*, or the cryptograms hidden in such works as the Violin Concerto. So he accepted a handsome advance for a new symphony, and set about kidding the BBC, his friends and perhaps even himself that it was "practically complete". No wonder that, on his deathbed, he suddenly gabbled that "no one would understand" the sketches. The truth is, there is all too little to understand.

That is why nobody has attempted to reconstruct the symphony before now. There was no legal barrier. Elgar was out of copyright between 1984 and 1995 (the year in which the meddlesome European Union extended copyright from 50 to 70 years after an author's death). During those 11 years the sketches were anybody's for the tinkering, and there are plenty of opportunistic scholars around.

Indeed, the practice of completing musical torsos has grown into a ghoulish industry. A whole generation of academics is paying off mortgages on the backs of geniuses who are no longer around to say no. Music-lovers have already enjoyed such fictions as "Beethoven's Tenth Symphony" and "Tchaikovsky's Seventh". Schubert's *Unfinished* is unfinished no longer — at least, not if you trust the instincts of a Hull music professor. "Mahler's Tenth", completed by another British academic, is regularly played; and Mozart's *Requiem* has been completed more times than *The Times* crossword.

Franco Alfano's ending for *Turandot* (which Puccini neglected to finish before he died) is invariably used today, although when Toscanini premiered *Turandot* he stopped melodramatically at the point where "the master laid down his pen". More recently, Alban Berg's opera *Lulu* was completed secretly against his widow's wishes and performed complete when she died. And two years ago Covent Garden premiered a "re-creation" of a fragmentary Monteverdi opera, *Arianna*, by the Cambridge music professor, Alexander Goehr.

Such exercises will always hold a fascination, especially for the many music-lovers who are much more excited by the past than the present. Here are ordinary minds struggling to fathom the logic of genius; sleuths sifting through clues on dead men's desks. What does that squiggle signify? Is that a minim or an ink-blot?

But there is something unconvincing about this latest Elgar wheeze. The fact is, we have been through these unrewarding hoops before. Only three years ago, Cambridge students gave the premiere of "Elgar's opera, *The Spanish Lady*": yet another major work that Elgar was, allegedly, close to finishing when he died.

Elgar devotees came from far and wide to hear this completion by an eminent scholar. We were crushingly disappointed. Elgar's sketches proved either to be pastiches or revamped youthful scraps. I fear that any premiere of his "Third Symphony" will be a similarly barren occasion. I do not know what Anthony Payne's invention will be like, but I do know that his claim that it will be "pure Elgar" is pure piffle. And outrageous presumption. And possibly prosecutable under the Trade Descriptions Act.

Of course it is natural that British audiences should crave one last masterpiece from the only Romantic genius in our musical history. But we have to accept that Elgar had a comparatively brief burst of brilliance: 25 years out of 76, at the most. Before that, he was a talented hack: afterwards, a broken reed.

He himself sensed the transience of his powers. At the climax of his most sublime movement, the First Symphony's Adagio, he inscribed Hamlet's words: "The rest is silence." At the head of his Second Symphony he quoted Shelley: "Rarely, rarely, comest thou, Spirit of Delight."

You certainly don't sense any Spirit of Delight in the jottings for the Third Symphony; only the pathos of an old man trying to revive his hour of hope and glory. His last musical testament should be left in pieces, and in peace.

Straight to the point of gay

THEATRE

Cloud Nine
Old Vic

The reason lesbians were not subject to the laws that until recently oppressed gay men is supposed to be that nobody dared to challenge Queen Victoria's conviction that homosexual acts between women were impossible.

Perhaps someone should have time-warped her to a performance of Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*, which involves the erotic confusions of her subjects and their descendants. Either she would have stumbled from the play convinced that John Brown was a secret pederast who fancied her because deep inside her regal exterior she was brattishly male; or, more likely, she would have passed out at around the time a young homosexual decides he is at root a gay woman attracted to his own sister.

Churchill wrote *Cloud Nine* in 1979 and, even though Aids has since added yet another wrinkle to her attack on sexual hypocrisy, it still seems a remarkably topical play. It is also belatedly clear that it marked the definitive arrival of a major dramatist. Three years later, Churchill came up with *Top Girls*, a play that still seems the sharpest rumination on feminism the theatre has produced. But in *Cloud Nine* she played equally bold games with a still broader topic: the difficulty of pinning down people's gender in the first place.

Be warned. The play is often fun, but it ventures into areas that people of nervous disposition may find disturbing. A man plays a lovelorn wife, a woman a small boy who hates being separated from his sister's dolly, another man a little girl who likes guns; and all to show that nature and nurture, id and super-ego, true feelings and social roles, have often been desperately at odds.

The opening act, set in darkest Africa in 1879, is a spoof of the 19th-century sexual hothouse. Drums rumble. The natives are restless. Tim McInnerny's Clive, the colonial administrator, is forced to use the whip. But the real jungle, the true rebellion, is inner. Although he spouts platitudes about Victorian values and thinks he means them, he is pursuing a lady planter. Meanwhile, the governess hankers for his wife, who falls for his best friend, who has bedded his son and now tries to seduce Clive himself. Result: guilt, repentance, threats of scandal and suicide, promises of reform, appeals to the manly virtues, and the enforced marriage of a gay man to a lesbian.

Churchill's inventiveness is not spent. Act II updates the action to a London park in 1979, but reintroduces us to some of Act I's characters, who have aged only 25 years, in the process turning from caricatures into more or less real people. The colonial wife has left her oppressive husband. Her son is a gentle, possessive homosexual who irritates his promiscuous lover, and her bisexual daughter is ditching her husband. Happiness is still elusive. *Cloud Nine* has not been reached. But the characters acknowledge, understand and accept their and others' desires a bit more.

There are some super performances in Tom Cairns's production, notably from McInnerny, Marion Bailey, Stephen Noonan and Janine Duvitski, who somehow transmutes herself from a larky boy in a sailor suit into a touchingly innocent old lady. Together they make it clear that, at least in the theatre, Churchill was the first to ask and answer what are now familar questions: can the intricacies of sex be summed up in terms such as "straight", "gay", or even "man" and "woman"? No, for that is to expect mercury to be as rigid as steel.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Native fauna sets the scene for Marion Bailey and Tim McInnerny in *Cloud Nine*

Mike plus Mark

BLUES

SOME nights turn out to be rather special, and this was one of them: a gig to remember from **Mike Henderson and the Bluebloods** at the Borderline, WC2.

Missouri-born Henderson was out to display his credentials as a born-again bluesman after spending most of his career as a country singer and songwriter. The gap between "new country" and the blues may not appear that wide, but it is rare for an artist to appeal to both camps.

Henderson brings to the blues vitality, freshness and a technical brilliance forged during countless Nashville sessions — hence the impeccable slide guitar work on numbers such as Sonny Boy Williamson's *So Sad to Be Lonesome*. What he appears to have left behind is the ability to produce original material: a disappointment from someone who has written for both Randy Travis and Trisha Yearwood.

Still, that point became a little academic at the Borderline when Henderson announced a "surprise guest" and up popped Mark Knopfler. Unless I am mistaken, opportunities to watch from six feet away as Knopfler plays an hour of solid blues guitar are not too frequent these days. As he traded licks with Henderson, backed solidly by drummer John Gardner, bassist Glenn Worf and keyboard player Gregg Wetzel, it was apparent just why a live gig can be so much better than anything you could hear on CD.

Knopfler, fluent and dazzling, provided an effective counterpoint to Henderson's darker, more brooding slide guitar solos on numbers such as *Don't Throw Your Love on Me So Strong* and a surprisingly effective version of Duke Ellington's *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*. Finally there was a stark nod in the direction of the Delta with Charley Patton's *Pony Blues*, followed by a plea to recover the songwriting royalties for another musical legend: *Pay Bo Diddley*.

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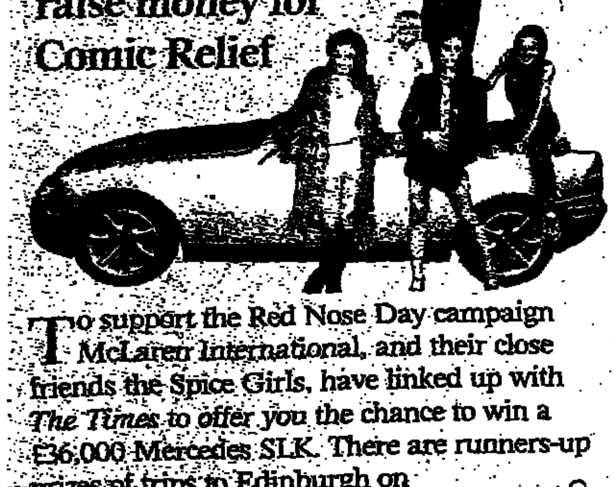

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CHANGING TIMES

Even Handel sometimes mishandled

OPERA

Alessandro Severo
Royal College of Music

HANDEL'S *Alessandro Severo* (1738) is not to be confused with his earlier *Alessandro* of 1726. The former is a *pasticcio*, ie, cobbled together from existing music to fill a gap in one of the composer's last London opera seasons; it was premiered shortly before *Xerxes*, and has not been seen since. This latest collaboration between the London Royal Schools' Vocal Faculty and the London Handel Festival showed clearly why.

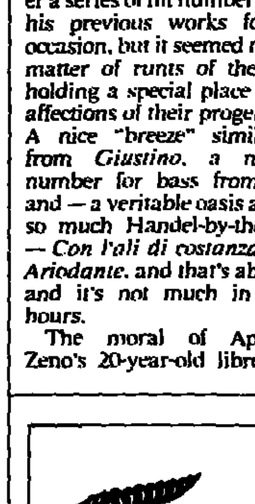
You might think that Handel would have strung together a series of hit numbers from his previous works for the occasion, but it seemed more a matter of runts of the litter holding a special place in the affections of their progenitors. A nice "breeze" simile-aria from *Giustino*, a martial number for bass from *Ezio* and — a veritable oasis amidst so much Handel-by-the-yard — *Con l'ali di costanza* from *Ariodante*, and that's about it, and it's not much in three hours.

The moral of Apostolo Zeno's 20-year-old libretto is "never sign a document unread, even if it's handed to you by your mother". The wet Roman Emperor Alexander Severus does this and finds he's divorced his wife of whom the original mother-in-law-from-hell Julia Mamaea does not approve. The score does less than justice to this promising situation, and the subplot peters out into an inferior rerun of the assassination conspiracy in *Tamerlano*.

There is not a lot that a director can do with this material, but Mike Ashman might have tried a bit harder. Indeed, during the first hour, with scrappy playing, dull conducting, a primitive staging, and only one singer — the bright, stylish Mary Nelson as the discarded Empress — delivering anything like the goods, the purpose of this whole collaboration was constantly called into serious doubt.

Luckily Denys Darlow and his band started to distil proper Handelian spirit in the second act, and the other singers seemed to have warmed up (in general principle, it is better to warm up before, rather than during, a performance). The American counter-tenor Lawrence Zazzo fielded very promising tone as the Emperor (he is to sing in *Semele* at Santa Fe this year), and the bass James Rutherford tamed his hitherto unruly tuning, relishing the wide leaps in his big number. The Swedish mezzo Jenny Grahn sang smoothly in an unrewarding role, and Hilary Dolamore rather less securely in one equally so. The Dowager Empress was beyond Alison Kettlewell's current capabilities, but she had a good try. All round, though, a pretty grisly evening.

RODNEY MILNES



LACOSTE

Not the greatest story ever told

FOR various good reasons, the biggest biblical subjects have almost always inspired oratorio rather than opera. True. Wagner once planned to write a five-act opera called *Jesus von Nazareth*, but with uncharacteristic humility realised that the theme was too big for him.

Step forward Jill Townsend, composer of **The Promise**, premiered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall this week by the evangelical group Opera Brava. Her opera is the result of the company's work in schools, and it is written for children's chorus and professional soloists. *The Promise*, based on the major events of St Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, does not aim to be the last word in operatic refinement, but it is described as a "full-length" work.

At this performance it seemed too long, given the lack of dramatic flow and the unrelenting moderato of the music. The score is a succession of cheerful melodies, inflected with the odd augmented second for Middle Eastern effect. Cacophonous outbursts punctuate the plot, for instance when Satan is stalking the stage — the Devil doesn't get the best tunes, for once. The conductor, Keith Willis, his orchestra and a well-drilled chorus did their best.

The piece might work in churches or schools in a tighter staging. But here the director, Adrian Hilton, did little more than direct traffic. Few of the principals projected with any stage presence, and Hilton's idea of an agitated crowd was to let the children scream, playground-style.

As Jesus, the tenor David Ashmore-Turner coped well with the high tessitura of the part, and Christopher Parke was a solid John the Baptist. Iwona Januszajtis (Gabriel) and Amanda Buckland (Mary) were more than adequate, but Judy Slater's bright Mary Magdalene gave the evening's only complete vocal and dramatic performance.

JOHN ALLISON

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BBC music MAGAZINE & CD

Clinton's former spin-doctor, **Dick Morris**, advises the Tories to abandon the election strategy that led to Bob Dole's defeat last year

How Major can help Blair to blow it

The British election gives me a sense of *déjà vu*. It is not so much that Tony Blair is trying to clone Bill Clinton, but that John Major is trying to clone Bob Dole. The Tories are repeating every one of the mistakes that the Republicans made in their uniformly unsuccessful effort to discredit President Clinton's heralded move to the centre in the 1996 election.

Just as the Dole handlers tried to transform the contest into a match of personal attributes between their war-wounded man of integrity and a President racked by scandals, so the Conservatives are seeking to sow personal distrust of Blair and disseminate a warm fuzzy feeling about their sweater-clad Prime Minister. It didn't work in America and it won't work in Britain.

Ironically, at a time when American elections are fought more on the issue positions between parties — the British model — the Conservatives seem to want to move toward elections based on candidate personalities and credibility irrespective of party — the American model.

Even though Major is a smidgen more attractive than zero-charisma Bob Dole, the Tories will not close the gap they face by a contrast of personalities, or even of attributes. In the 1990s, voters want elections based on verbs, not on adjectives. They demand to know what a candidate will *do* for them, not just what kind of man he may claim to be.

As the video game replaces couch potato television as home entertainment, voters want interactivity. They refuse to be merely spectators judging the biographies and personalities of the contenders. The electorate demands to know how each of the candidates will help or hurt them in their daily lives.

Just as Republicans hammered home the fact that Clinton didn't really mean his centrist proposals of balancing the budget, cutting taxes, and reforming welfare, the Tories are claiming that Blair's move to the centre is opportunistic and will not survive his ascension to power. But voters believe, in the parlance of American politics, that "if it walks like a duck, talks like a duck, and acts like a duck then it is a duck". Conservatives will have little success in seeking to prove to an electorate that likes Blair and his new policies that the Labour leader doesn't believe that which he says each and every day to be his programme.

Some Conservatives seem to hope that the good economic news will "sink in" and offer them a measure of electoral backing they now seem to lack. As Clinton learnt when he lost control of Congress in 1994 despite increasing indications of prosperity, if people don't credit you with good times there is nothing you can do about it

The only way to disprove the *sincerity of Labour's conversion to* the centre is for Blair to do it to himself — from his own mouth and in his own words.

The Conservatives have only one shot at victory. They must inject issues into the coming campaign which will split Blair's moderate supporters from his Labour union-backers. By picking on issues which tear at the seams of his coalition, the Tories may be able to force Blair to choose between his base support and his marginal voters.

One wonders, for example, whether Blair would be willing to oppose any labour agreements which provide for wage increases that are above the national rate of inflation — a moratorium on real wage rises — unless they can be covered by productivity improvements. *Work rules and job security* guarantees might also offer fertile grounds for Tory challenges to Labour. A critical focus on public employee salaries and rights could also put Blair in a ticklish position.

Beyond these issues, the Tories need to generate a new staple of proposals. Politicians fall as much because of their successes as their failures. Britain's rejection of Winston Churchill in 1945, *just as he* had succeeded in winning the war, is the classic example. A politician who extinguishes his mandate by solving the problem he was elected to fix cannot appeal to the voters' sense of gratitude or fair play to seek another term in office. Such appeals lead to a place in history, not to continued tenure at Downing Street.

Conservatives are mired in their own successes in making Britain Europe's economic success story. To win re-election, they must focus on new issues: television violence, teenage smoking and cancer, drunken driving, educational standards, student discipline, teenage curfews, immigration reform, access to higher education and the like.

If the Tories map out an agenda *that is new, they will defeat the* charge that they are old and that their best ideas are already on the statute book and their worst are on the junk heap.

But even a new positive agenda will not be enough to overcome a *deficit of 20* or more points. Tony Blair needs to make a mistake in how he handles these new issues for them to overcome so significant a gap. For Conservatives to win, they must begin with the humility to realise that only if Blair blows it can they prevail. Their task must be to provide the issues which will force Blair to make mistakes.

But, if *Blair* turns his back on the left wing of his party and takes the risk that they will sit on their hands during the campaign, there is nothing the Conservatives can do to dislodge him from his position as the likely victor.

Labour has the Tories in check. If their candidate refuses to be dislodged from his position in the centre, it will be checkmate.

The author was appointed President Clinton's chief strategist in 1994. He resigned in August 1996.

Hounding honourable men

The public should be in no doubt on whose behalf an MP speaks — and who is paying for his double-breasted suit from Savile Row

Simon Jenkins

"Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" The Authorised Version is always best. There is acid in antiquity.

So first the beams. I know of journalists who have taken money to place articles in newspapers. Some receive gifts for mentions, some are susceptible to hospitality and some are downright corrupt. Papers have rules governing such behaviour. Journalists who break them should be sacked. Some are.

There are also doctors who prescribe expensive drugs because manufacturers offer them "conference trips". There are lawyers who lie on behalf of clients because they are paid to do so. There are City accountants who turn a blind eye to fraud because the fees are big. Some of these activities are illegal, some unethical, some merely dodgy. A few people go to prison. Some get away with murder. None of them purports to run the country or tell the rest of us how to behave. Only Members of Parliament do that.

I am thick of hide and long of tooth, but the transcripts of the "MPs sleaze" hearings published in yesterday's *Guardian* left me gasping. When I see an MP standing up in the House of Commons to defend British Airways or US Tobacco or DHL, or to attack Lonrho, I naively assume that he does so out of conviction or at least friendship. This is not necessarily so. Revelations from the files of just one of many lobbyists, Ian Greer, have led 25 MPs to agree that they took money from him. Some admit that they intervened in debates and questions in return for cash. Some were paid by methods familiar among used-car salesmen on London's North Circular Road.

Tim Smith, a treasurer of the Conservative Party, took his bribes in £50 *notes* stuffed into an envelope, apparently to avoid tax. Michael Brown, fearing discovery, sent a cheque for £1,500 to the Inland Revenue seven years after receiving £6,000 in cash. Neil Hamilton admitted lying to the Deputy Prime Minister about his payments, but says he never saw cash that witnesses assert they stuffed into envelopes for him. Sir Michael Grylls, chairman of the Tory industry committee, described "a natural agglomeration of Members with an interest in various companies" attached to his committee, all receiving money from Mr Greer. They happily agreed with him when he assured them that their loot was not a declarable interest.

A further job lot of MPs received campaign money as "friends of Mr Greer". Andrew Bowden, Lady Olga Maitland, Nirj Deva, Gerry Malone, Norman Lamont and Sir Peter Hordern have all been mentioned in terms that appear to break what are called "the rules". Another 15 MPs were hurriedly cleared by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee on Thursday. The reason was that, while they took money, they did not take much. The sin, your reverence, was a small one and ever so well-meant.

We are assured by those close to the Mother of Parliaments that every profession has its rotten apples. Let he who is without sin cast the first stone, they say. Pride goeth before destruction. (There is nothing like the Bible for getting the lads out of the kitchen when the moral heat is on.) Let us therefore turn from the apples to the fruiterer.

When the sleaze saga began in the early years of this parliament, John Major initiated the process that has now run into the buffers. The process is familiar to professions in distress, including my own. The leaders of the profession declare their work to be above the regulatory competence of the law. Their ethics should be judged, not by a court or the press or any independent tribunal, but strictly by their own.

Stung by revelations of the cash-for-questions scandal in 1995, the House of Commons disbanded its laughable Privileges Committee and renamed it the new, improved Standards and Privileges Committee. (Journalists know this trick: the Press Council is now called the Press Complaints Commission.) A supposedly fierce official named Sir Gordon Downey would hold hearings and issue reports. Then it would be left to MPs themselves to decide what to do. *So far it is an everyday story of* professional folk.

This structure was duly pointed at the scandal that led to its formation. It has failed the first test: The new committee expects us to believe that it cannot read dates. It seemed unaware that the Commons must be dissolved, at the latest, by May 1997. Here we are at Easter and, what a pity, there is no time to consider a possibly embarrassing report. A new regime will have to do so in the summer, by which time some rotten apples may be collecting worms on a House of Lords shelf.

Sir Gordon played his part. He claims to have been overwhelmed with the amount of paper he had to read, a task for which he was apparently ill-prepared by his Civil Service career. He says that natural justice required him to give the matter lengthy study. He has suggested that he could have exonerated 15 of the 25 MPs under investigation some time ago, but had not done so because that "might be taken as implying that the remainder [of the allegations] were well-founded". He was thus a wise and just man.

Then, on Thursday, Sir Gordon rushes out an interim report of just eight paragraphs. He turns turtle. *Now he publicly exonerates the 15*, to avoid them "having to enter into an election campaign with these allegations outstanding against them". As for the remaining ten, his exoneration of the first 15 "carries no implication one way or another" as to their guilt. Why did he imply the precise opposite when considering the matter "some time ago"?

On receiving the interim report on Thursday, the Standards and Privileges Committee did not suppress it, let alone demand a full version, even if Sir Gordon has to go without his tea-break. It published Sir Gordon's partial exoneration and wept crocodile tears. It "very much regrets that it has not been possible to complete all its outstanding work on these and other matters".

I have never read such rubbish. Sir Gordon knew he was turning up dirt, as did the committee. I suppose we must believe Sir Gordon when he says he was busy. What is totally implausible is his thesis that what he calls "natural justice" required him to hold back his verdict on ten MPs until after the election, while what he calls "a new situation" required him to exonerate 15 before it, and thus cover the others in mire.

This committee is the same lapdog as its predecessor. With MPs about to go on public parade, the committee was prepared to wash clean linen but not dirty underwear. The "exonerated 15" include the Tory leadership candidate Michael Portillo, Liberal Democrat deputy leader Alan Beith, Labour star Chris Smith, and John Major's friends Robert Atkins and Graham Bright. Come on, Sir Gordon, said the committee, these are senior club members. By all means leave a few rogues twisting in the wind, but cut down our friends. Sir Gordon duly obliged.

Who will guard these guardians? In this case, the answer was *The Guardian*. The transcripts of the secret hearings recalled the Congressional Kefauver Committee hearings on organised crime in 1951: nervous witnesses mumbling into microphones about envelopes and "the Revenue". The difference is that in America the hearings were in public. Here they are secret. Whatever the beams in the press's eye, it has done the job democracy expects of it. Yet four of the five MPs accused by *The Guardian* of misconduct or worse are seeking re-election next month.

My way of handling MPs who plug special interests for money is to accept the inevitable. Politicians will take cash. The simplest policy is to pay them nothing from public funds and let them live, as of old, self-employed and by their wits. MPs should be able to take any pay, from anyone. Business interests should have their MPs, as do trade unions. The one requirement is that everything be declared and above board. The public should be in no doubt on whose behalf an MP speaks and who is paying for his double-breasted.

We used to be told that subjecting MPs to this sort of moral inquisition was outrageous. Honest citizens would not stand for Parliament if we hounded MPs like this.

Honest people? Unleash more hounds.

Westminster 1997? No: Bourgevin's depiction of mayhem in the Chambre des Députés dates from 1871

Our isle is too full of noises

Ubiquitous voices are aural space invaders, says **Derwent May**

A new voice has been swelling on television: the voice of the huckster. We are no longer allowed to sit back after a programme we have enjoyed, and contemplate its pleasures for a moment in peace. Even as the credits start rolling, a voice pipes up: "Next on BBC2... Later on BBC2.. Over on BBC1 now..." There is not a moment's respite.

Of course, it is the same on ITV — and, what is worse, on radio. I am no enemy of Radio 3 and its inexhaustible fountain of great music, but even here the huckster mentality has wormed its way in. The music is continually interrupted by salesmen's voices. No sooner is a little Boccherini piece over than you are being urged to tune into a Boccherini recital in the evening, or else to go to the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. You start thinking that the Boccherini piece was put on in the first place only as a trailer for the recital, just as the recital will prove to be a trailer for a festival in Eisenstadt — and even that, probably, will be a plug for a new series of recordings.

Then there are the *Radio 4* programme trails. One of the nightmares of breakfast time is the three minutes between the end of the weather forecast and the start of the news. How to get through that outburst of hysterical selling and facetious clips? I simply wash up last night's dinner-plates as loudly as I can, waiting for the moment before the news when a calmer voice will run through the morning's road accidents.

In *The Waste Land*, T.S. Eliot describes a sinister "sound high in the air", which I associate nowadays with these broadcast voices. Then he goes on to evoke as a further feature of the waste land the "voices singing out of empty cisterns and exhausted wells", which will do very well for another set of contemporary voices, the new intercom announcements on the London Underground.

Of course, one cannot be wholly hostile to the idea of announcements on public transport. I remember a conductor on the No 22 bus that goes along Piccadilly, who, having observed his passengers closely, used to sing out for their benefit at Green Park station: "Green Park, and taxis for the Ritz."

There are also announcements now in the carriages of railway trains. A few months ago the guard on a train that I was taking from Liverpool Street to Cambridge informed us passengers, just before we started: "This is the O eleven-hundred-hours service to Cambridge, arriving at 0 twelve-twenty-nine." Even the privatised railways have not quite grasped the 24-hour clock — but I forgave him.

It is, I suppose, some consolation when a train stops, and lets you look at the flowers on the embankment, that at least a vague message about "signal failure" is passed on. (Yet one really would like to know why the signal has failed.)

However, it is on the Underground that the new communications system really produces the horrors. In the early days there was a man with a particularly lugubrious voice. He used to start with "Ladies and *Gentlemen*...". Never have I heard a voice that conveyed at the same time more doom for its auditors, and more happiness for the speaker. You gritted your teeth as you waited for the news of... what would it be? Cancellations, breakdowns, power failures, bodies under the wheels? It was never anything good, and generally ended with the ineffable advice: "Take the first train and change as necessary."

He has gone, but now the noise on the Underground never sems to cease. Announcements echo inaudibly around the tunnels, often timed to coincide with the roar of a train coming in; the driver gives his news as the loudspeaker on the platform is doing the same, and they drown each other out; mysterious appeals ring out that have nothing to do with the comfort of the passengers at all: "If there is a cleaner on the station will she please go at once to the station manager's office?"

Modern technology has produced so many enemies of our ears. There are also the mobile phones, whose users always speak twice as loud as anyone else sitting on a bus or train. There is not even any pleasure in eavesdropping. All the conversations seem quite superfluous acts of communication. You never hear anyone say: "Buy me two million Reuters shares immediately."

Our poor old aural space is being mercilessly invaded and, usually, all for nothing. In another poem, *The Dry Salvages*, T.S. Eliot asked: "Where is there an end of it, the soundless wailing?" If only it were soundless. I think I could live with that.

THE TIMES DIARY

Sleazy rider

TRY AS he might to escape the sleaze row, Neil Hamilton, the beleaguered MP for Tatton, will find it more difficult than he thinks with Mohamed Al Fayed mischievously on his tail.

The Egyptian owner of Harrods has taken out a full-page advertisement at a cost of some £7,000 in the local newspaper for Hamilton's constituency, urging its readers to buy the book *Sleaze*, which records the MP's behaviour.

Shops in his constituency are reluctant to stock the book after legal threats from Hamilton, so Al Fayed has taken his own initiative. In the advertisement, which will appear on Monday, he writes a letter on Harrods-headed paper under the heading: *Believe it or not, this is a free country.*

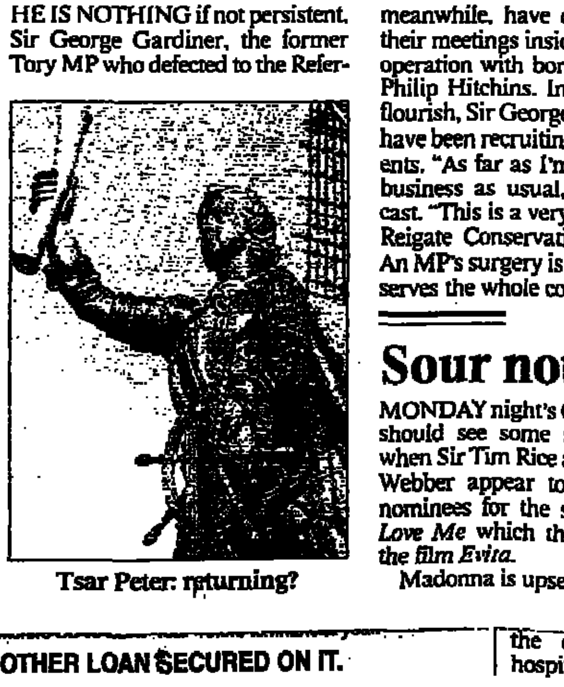
"Dear People of the Tatton Parliamentary Constituency," he writes, "I am concerned to learn that you may be unable to obtain copies of an important book which details the activites of your present Member of Parliament... I believe it is a book that everyone has a right to read." After explaining how to order the book from Harrods, Al Fayed finishes his letter: "Why should Mr Hamilton fear the facts? Read *Sleaze* and find out."

For Pete's sake

INHABITANTS of Deptford, southeast London, may soon have to come to terms with a giant statue of Tsar Peter the Great which currently stands in Moscow. It is reviled by the entire city.

The 165ft-high structure was erected last year by Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor, on a prime site on the Moskva River as part of the city's 850th anniversary this year. Not only has it been condemned by Boris Yeltsin as a monstrosity, but Muscovites point out that Peter the Great detested Moscow to the extent of building himself a new capital 500 miles to the northwest.

Enter Andrew Preston, Deptford resident. The mayor's office is seriously considering his proposal that the borough should take on the eyesore on the grounds that Peter spent an enjoyable few weeks there some 400 years ago studying shipbuilding. "We in Deptford, one of the poorest boroughs in London can solve this practical dilemma," he has told the mayor, "by taking the statue off your hands and moving it to the docks of Deptford."



Tsar Peter: returning?

Battle bus

HE IS NOTHING if not persistent. Sir George Gardiner, the former Tory MP who defected to the Referendum Party after being ousted by his local party for his continual criticism of John Major.

Now that he is barred from his constituency headquarters, he has nowhere to hold his monthly surgery, so he has been staging it in a minibus parked on the forecourt outside his old offices in Reigate, Surrey.

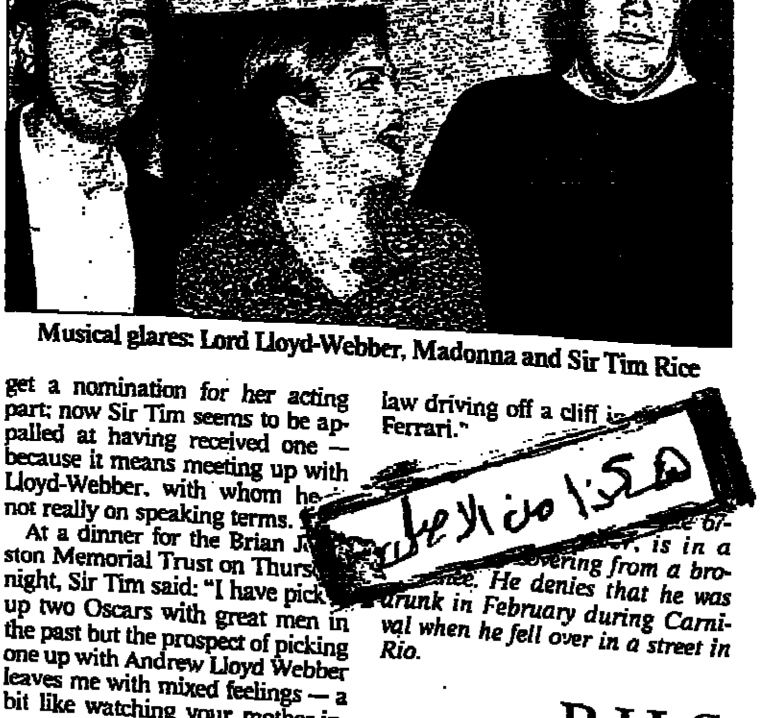
The Tories who cast him out, meanwhile, have carried on with their meetings inside HQ in a rival operation with borough councillor Philip Hitchins. In a triumphalist flourish, Sir George's team claim to have been recruiting more constituents. "As far as I'm concerned, it's business as usual," says the outcast. "This is a very petty action by Reigate Conservative Association. An MP's surgery is not political but serves the whole community."

Sour note

MONDAY night's Oscar ceremony should see some strained smiles when Sir Tim Rice and Lord Lloyd-Webber appear together as joint nominees for the song *You Must Love Me* which they co-wrote for the *film Evita*.

Madonna is upset after failing to get a nomination for her acting part; now Sir Tim seems to be appalled at having received one — because it means meeting up with Lloyd-Webber, with whom he [illegible] not really on speaking terms.

At a dinner for the Brian J[illegible]ston Memorial Trust on Thurs[illegible] night, Sir Tim said: "I have pick[illegible] up two Oscars with great men in the past but the prospect of picking one up with Andrew Lloyd Webber leaves me with mixed feelings — a bit like watching your mother-in-law driving off a cliff i[illegible] Ferrari."



Musical glares: Lord Lloyd-Webber, Madonna and Sir Tim Rice

[illegible]

[illegible] *is in a* [illegible]*vering from a bro*[illegible]*nce. He denies that he was drunk in February during Carnival when he fell over in a street in Rio.*

P·H·S

the daughter, 44, left for hospital treatment. *(AP)*

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

هكذا من الاصل

MAJOR'S WAY OUT

Without decisive action, the real election issues will be buried.

It is hard to conceive how the Conservative election campaign could have got off to a worse start. With at least four of his candidates accused of serious wrongdoing and his own position impugned, John Major has been rendered impotent by events. The Prime Minister's attempt to confront the voters with the consequences of a change of government has been frustrated by his own failure to confront corruption.

If Mr Major had prolonged the life of this Parliament to allow Sir Gordon Downey to publish his "sleaze" report then voters would not have to rely on leaks to find out if their Member was worthy of his seat and the Conservatives could have begun to campaign effectively. It is in the public interest that ministers begin to test Labour's case ferociously, as well as outlining the Conservative vision for the millennium, but they will not be able to do so effectively until these matters have been laid to rest. If the Prime Minister persists in thinking the issue will disappear of its own accord then his sense of proportion already has and his administration surely and shortly will.

The easiest, and best, answer would still be to recall the House simply in order to allow the Downey report to be published. It would be unconventional but not unconstitutional. As yesterday's *Guardian* and new revelations in *The Times* today show, the truth will out anyway. Unfortunately, it is not the whole truth. Until Sir Gordon's report appears, evidence which is, in every sense, partial will seep out to stain individuals and, by association, the Government.

Questions can legitimately be raised about the Prime Minister's own role. Given that Tim Smith apparently told the Chief Whip in 1989 of his activities on Mohamed Al Fayed's behalf, why was he made a treasurer of the Conservative Party in 1992 and a minister in 1994? Whips have their secrets, but how could the Prime Minister be allowed to make such an appointment? Mr Major looks to be the victim of confusion rather than the author of a cover-up but matters will not rest until authoritative and independent answers are given.

The Conservatives must weigh the necessity of throwing the wounded to the wolves. In Ireland, Fine Gael, facing a general election, has deprived a minister of the whip until his own tax affairs are in order. Mr Major could try to push Tim Smith and Neil Hamilton out of the party tent. There is a danger, of course, that so much damage is already done that the time is too late. In the spirit of the ERM and BSE fiascos, Mr Major could appear once again as the defender of an impossible position fated to falter at the end. It would also be the roughest of justice.

But justice in politics sometimes has to be rough. Other Tory MPs, such as Keith Best in 1987 and Alan Amos in 1992, have been sacrificed for the sake of the Tory whole. Mr Hamilton, however, who still vigorously protests his innocence on the central charge, is not a man likely to volunteer for the part of Captain Oates. So he will need to be pushed hard. By such an action Mr Major might regain authority over events and give the country a chance to concentrate on the substantive matters at issue in this election. Future administrations must not be placed in a similar position. Adopting Lord Nolan's recommendation which allows Sir Gordon to make his findings public would help, as might making him answerable to the Speaker. She remains in place while Parliament is prorogued and could be in a better position to expedite future researches than the Standards and Privileges Committee. The current machinery to govern members' conduct is new and must be refined if self-regulation is to have any chance of survival. If this Government is to have any chance of survival then an assertion of leadership is required. The nation can only make a considered decision after a proper debate but the electorate cannot have confidence that there will be a proper debate unless the Prime Minister takes the voters into his confidence.

BLOODY FRIDAY

Israel's anger should not obscure Israel's interest

For the second time in eight days innocent Israelis have lost blood and lives in an act of political violence. The shooting of seven schoolchildren last week was shocking. It was, at least, the work of one man rather than a wider conspiracy. The blast that yesterday destroyed a Tel Aviv café — killing three and wounding 43 people — signals a much more dangerous course of events. It suggest that the Hamas terrorists may resume their suicide-bombing strategy that killed 59 Israelis in three attacks last year.

One consequence of those assaults was a diminished enthusiasm for the peace process in Israel and a renewed stress on security questions. That in turn led to the defeat of Shimon Peres and the, once improbable, narrow election of Binyamin Netanyahu and his Likud-led coalition. The Israeli Prime Minister knows that his public will now demand that he protects them with more success than his Labour predecessor. That promise is the essence of his politics. It was not surprising then that the first response of many in his Cabinet was to question the merits of the peace process.

In his initial reaction to the outrage, Mr Netanyahu blamed the Palestinian National Authority for indirectly offering a "green light" to such acts through its response to recent events in east Jerusalem. Others will suggest that Yassir Arafat does not possess such a decisive influence over Hamas. Nonetheless, the Prime Minister was right to assert that the greatest threat to peace lies in the belief that violence can be selectively deployed as a bargaining tactic. Whatever the wisdom of his stance and timing on settlements he will not, and should not, alter it at the behest of such terror.

Israel's citizens will demand that Mr Arafat demonstrates the maximum possible energy in tracking down Palestinian extremists. Their front organisations operate all but openly in much of the Palestinian National Authority. If that commitment is not seen and does not produce results, the outside world cannot expect Mr Netanyahu to continue as though such attacks had not happened. The phased transfer of territory and political powers on the West Bank and Gaza Strip has always been explicitly contingent upon successful policing.

Israel's intense anger should not blind it to its interests. The plain objective of rejectionist forces such as Hamas is to oblige Mr Netanyahu to make substantial unilateral concessions or abandon the peace process entirely. The Prime Minister is most unlikely to capitulate on the first account but is more vulnerable on the second. The Likud leader has always approached the Oslo accords from a strictly pragmatic position, not trading land for peace but land for peace and certain security. If he cannot be persuaded that such a swap is credible then he may suspend co-operation indefinitely.

Peace at any price is a poor deal; but Israel still has more to gain than lose from full participation in the process. Mr Netanyahu is entitled to make his past and future moves contingent upon Mr Arafat's competence on security matters. He should not play into his enemies' hands by cutting off all contacts. The sad truth is that, with the best of precautions, either Hamas or Hezbollah will attempt to sabotage political dialogue. Mr Netanyahu should hold the terrorists and their sponsors in Damascus or Tehran to account. But his strongest weapon remains his power to gain Israel's advantage from the process that Israel's enemies want to die.

WHEELS TO THE TOP

A President in a wheelchair has a good deal rolling for him

This has been a good week for Bill Clinton. For four years he has been trying to appear like Franklin D. Roosevelt. And now at last he has managed it. This has been the first wheelchair summit since Roosevelt and Churchill met Stalin at Yalta in 1945. And it has given the two leaders, as well as the rest of the world, something new to talk about.

Summits now happen almost as frequently as Test matches. So both types of event have lost the charm of novelty. Mr Yeltsin prophesied that this summit was going to be "the most difficult in the whole history of Russian-American relations". But no one much believed him. Certain truths remain. Summits tend to make leaders look good and their oppositions shout foul. Yesterday, Gennadi Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communist Party, blasted Mr Yeltsin in the State Duma (lower house of parliament): "Boris Nikolayevich has not had any victories for a long time, except over his own people and country".

But Boris Nikolayevich had numerous important victories at Helsinki. The Kremlin's new *pyervy samolyot*, "First Plane", was revealed as being as grand and sophisticated as Air Force One. Russian minders and other summit sherpas paraded their slick navy jackets and mobile telephones instead of the brown nylon suits with bulges under the armpits. And, best of all for Mr Yeltsin, the heart-invalid who was supposed to be half-dead came bounding off his plane looking bronzed and cheerful.

The Americans thought that they too had a problem with the critics back home. White House advisers got cold wheels about letting Mr Yeltsin be photographed pushing their man in his wheelchair. They feared that cartoonists and Republicans would do them more harm than ever Boris Yeltsin could do them good. But they were surely wrong. The world has moved on since Franklin Roosevelt, not wanting to be pictured as too weak for the top, went to extraordinary lengths to avoid being photographed in his wheelchair. Now there are advantages for Mr Clinton in his invalid's prop. It even attracts useful sympathy. The disabled and disadvantaged form much the largest special interest group in the United States. The wheelchair is an emblem of peace beside a tank, as it were, a self-propelling ploughshare to a sword.

Its image will take the sting out of allegations by Mr Zyuganov that Nato expansion is aggressive. Who would monger war from a wheelchair? The chair may win Mr Clinton kinder, or at any rate different, questions at press conferences. And it will make foul aspersions of sex scandals or midnight raids on the fridge of the Intercontinental Hotel, Helsinki, as implausible as, we are sure, they always were.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

CPS policy on the granting of bail

From Dr W. S. Affleck

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Locked into a suicidal system", March 17) is right to draw attention to the appalling human tragedies which can occur when the procedures laid down for the supervision of accused prisoners on remand have not been properly observed. The vast majority of these prisoners are so placed only because the request made on their behalf for bail has been turned down.

There will certainly be some cases where the danger to the public, the likelihood of reoffending, or the probability that the accused will not present himself for trial may justify withholding bail and requiring imprisonment on remand. However, are these cases sufficiently common to explain the size of the remand prisoner population?

Does the Crown Prosecution Service perhaps routinely oppose bail not to safeguard the public but as an administrative convenience to spare itself and the police the trouble of finding and producing the accused in court?

If remand is often just an administrative convenience then cases like that of Angela Bollam, the 19-year-old heroin addict who hanged herself after five hours left alone in her prison cell, should weigh heavily on the CPS. It is the CPS's policy and procedures which perhaps most pressingly need overhaul.

Yours sincerely,
W. S. AFFLECK,
Barley Hill, Watledge,
Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire.
March 18.

From Mrs A. E. Barroll, JP

Sir, In his moving article Magnus Linklater calls for a latter-day John Howard or Elizabeth Fry.

I am proud to say that the Elizabeth Fry Probation and Bail Hostel is alive and well in Reading. The successor to the Refuge for Discharged Prisoners, founded in memory of Elizabeth Fry in 1849, the hostel is voluntary-managed with Home Office funding and moved from London in 1960.

Through the years the nature of the work with women offenders has changed to coincide with demand; today the 21 residents are on probation orders, bail assessment, or remand.

Qualified and caring staff help them address their problems — often drug-related — through a rigorous programme designed to enable them to realise their current and future needs. When circumstances permit they can be accompanied by their children. Surely a more positive way of life than confinement in prison?

Yours faithfully,
ANN BARROLL
(Chairman, Elizabeth Fry Hostel Management Committee),
1 Upper Warren Avenue,
Caversham, Reading, Berkshire.
March 18.

Carey's crusade

From Dr Caroline Bonwitt

Sir, Dr Carey is head of the Established Church in a country engaged in a bloody, violent dispute with its neighbour, a country where nearly half the marriages break down, where children are often brutalised, where standards of public behaviour have reached an unprecedented low and where perhaps 2 per cent of the population practises the state religion.

Despite all of this he found the time to go and tell the Israelis how to do it (leading article, March 12; letters, March 13).

You have to admire his cheek but where is his Christian humility? What about the mote and beam?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE BONWITT,
The Foreland Medical Centre,
188 Walmer Road, W11.
March 13.

Against apostasy

From Dr William Oddie

Sir, I was surprised to see my *Catholic Herald* review of A. N. Wilson's book *Paul: The Mind of the Apostle* described in your Diary (March 13) as "an extraordinary *ad hominem* attack" on the author. The implication of this appears to be that I misused my position as a reviewer in order to give vent to my personal feelings about Mr Wilson. But I have no personal animus against Mr Wilson at all; if anything the reverse is true.

A reviewer, nevertheless, has the duty of pointing out a writer's underlying agenda where he believes he discerns one: I believe that Mr Wilson's, as I wrote in my review, is "to undermine the credibility of the Christian religion in general and the Church in particular".

It was Mr Wilson, after all, who in a high-profile and swingeing attack on all religion wrote that "the love of God is the root of all evil". This is why I described him as "an apostate". This is the correct term to describe one who makes a public declaration of his defection from Christianity rather than losing his faith more discreetly: I deny that I used it polemically in my review — my polemics were reserved almost entirely for the book and not for its author.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM ODDIE,
6 Sunningwell Road, Oxford.
March 14.

London's 'leap forward into past'

From Lord Feldman of Frognal

Sir, Lady Blackstone ("Give the capital authority", March 14) continues the saga of yet another Labour menu without prices.

I have learned that there are two ways to predict the future: one is to create it; the other is to study the past. Having served as an adopted member of both the housing management and arts committees of the Greater London Council, I believe from my past experience that even if the proposed Greater London Authority starts small, it will soon grow and grow.

In my view, its establishment would be a leap forward into the past and a magical mystery tour leading to growing bureaucracy and costs, and inexorably to a London version of the "tartan tax". After all, the GLC — with its 20,000 staff — fully earned its place in history by having one of the largest budgets of any city, or indeed many smaller countries, in the world, leaving the ratepayers of London with unnecessarily high charges.

To chop and change now, just as the systems set in place are growing in strength and performance, would be counter-productive.

Lady Blackstone cites the suggestion of Tony Blair that an elected mayor would be a good idea. In a recent debate in the House of Lords several peers (myself included) pointed out that a directly elected mayor, and a directly elected London authority, would set the scene for permanent discord in the corridors of London power.

Instead of a mayor, I propose a full-time Minister for London at Minister of State level within the Department of the Environment, who could travel the world as a champion for London, act as a host within London and coordinate and strengthen the city's activities at all levels including — of course — strategic planning and transport.

Yours faithfully,
FELDMAN,
House of Lords.
March 18.

Gorbachev's legacy

From Mr Brian Crozier

Sir, I note from Professor Archie Brown's letter (March 17) that he is still not cured of his Gorbymania.

Gorbachev's book *Perestroika* is peppered with worshipful references to Lenin, as were his speeches. A convinced Leninist cannot be a defender of freedom in the Western sense. In the limited reforms he introduced, his objective was to convince the West that he was aiming at transforming a one-party dictatorship into a democracy, thus persuading the West to rescue the Soviet Union from bankruptcy.

His problem was that the communist system was unreformable. Oleg Gordievsky, as an insider, is aware of the reality. As I put it in my own book, *The Gorbachev Phenomenon* (Claridge Press, 1990): "He deserves, not praise for his grand deception, but gratitude for his abysmal failure."

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CROZIER,
Flat AA, 1 Carlisle Place, SW1.
March 18.

From Mr Oleg Gordievsky

Sir, Professor Archie Brown confirms the tendency of some in the academic world to mythologise and create icons out of communist autocrats, from Lenin to Ho Chi Minh. He says that Anatoli Sobchak and Sergei Stankevich "cleared Gorbachev of any responsibility" for the Tbilisi massacre in 1989.

Under the conditions of that regime it was impossible to accuse the President of any criminal offence, but without orders from the top no military-political action in the capital city of a Soviet republic could take place.

The impunity with which the leadership carried out the atrocities in Tbilisi, Baku and Vilnius, and the four years of war in Afghanistan under Gorbachev, were what forged the mind-set of those communist-school officials who later organised the infamous bloodbath in Chechnia.

Yours faithfully,
OLEG GORDIEVSKY,
c/o A. M. Heath,
79 St Martin's Lane, WC2.
March 18.

Treating anorexia

From Professor Emeritus Ivor H. Mills

Sir, Mr Justice Wall has certainly broken new ground (report, March 13) by his ruling that, under common law, a 16-year-old girl with anorexia could be restrained in a clinic for treatment. But many would question the benefit of this. Using severe measures to force anorexic patients to eat often makes them depressed so that they can no longer drive themselves to eat.

Evidence that I, together with Linda Medlicott, published in 1992 showed that patients with eating disorders have exactly the same compulsive features as are shown by those who have compulsive personality disorder. The latter group includes workaholics, some alcoholics and gamblers and those with obsessive compulsive neurosis, but they do not have an eating disorder. Appreciating the compulsive nature of the illness certainly helped the patients' families both to understand and to assist in their treatment.

In recent years the genetic basis of compulsive behaviour has begun to be unravelled. This may lead us to find a treatment which will curtail the compulsive drive, so that the patient can co-operate more easily in recovering.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR H. MILLS
(Professor Emeritus of Medicine),
University of Cambridge,
Department of Surgery,
Douglas House,
Trumpington Road, Cambridge.
March 13.

Patterns of violence

From Mr Martin Alpren

Sir, Your later editions today report two items, one above the other: a man kicked to death by a gang of youths while he was helping a disabled woman whom they were taunting, and a rail operator ordering up to 20 trains to run over the body of a young woman left for four hours on the line "in the interests of travellers who would otherwise have faced severe delays".

Does anything connect these two events?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ALPREN,
2 Claremont Park, Finchley, N3.
March 19.

Penance misplaced

From Mr John K. Roberts

Sir, Members of Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade, being men of integrity, will want to dig deep into their own pockets so that the full burden of Mrs Clayton's award of £200,000 against them for their inconsiderate conduct toward her (report, March 18) will not fall too heavily on council taxpayers who have absolutely no responsibility for this deplorable matter.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN K. ROBERTS,
The Old Nursery,
Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
March 20.

Burying the Globe

From Professor J. L. Wilson

Sir, The refusal by English Heritage further to investigate the remains of the Globe playhouse (report, March 13) suggest that their archaeologists have learned nothing from the sorry saga of the Rose, which remains covered up eight years after its discovery. Archaeologists speaking on behalf of English Heritage have consistently failed to show appreciation of the importance of these sites.

Until the discovery of the Rose there were no material remains of any Elizabethan playhouse known, and the Globe is the only playhouse which may be truly described as "Shakespearean". It is the only one in the design of which Shakespeare may have had some influence — the other amphitheatre playhouses with which he is known to have been connected, the Theatre and the Curtain, were built during his childhood, and his connection with the Rose is speculative.

Although the sites of six Elizabethan playhouses are known, there is no guarantee that the remains of any but the Rose and the Globe survive. The latter is of global importance: in permitting development of the site and refusing to excavate it English Heritage is failing in its duty to scholarship.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. WILSON (Author,
The Archaeology of Shakespeare,
Sutton Publishing, 1995),
Wholeway, Harlton, Cambridge.
March 14.

Political passions

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, From the start of Richard Attenborough's article ("Believe me: Blair cares about the arts", March 15) I thought it would not be long before the word passion cropped up. I was not disappointed. Ten years ago, when he was on the stump with Roy Jenkins on behalf of the SDP, he said on camera that he believed *passionately* in the middle ground. In what political home will his passion find him in another ten years?

He cannot be too surprised at Virginia Bottomley's "luvvies' charter" gibe at Tony Blair's Mansion House speech. So many of his fraternity are bound up with the most tiresome intensity and self-indulgence. Full of ideas they are — passionately held of course — as to how public money should be spent. In equal measure are they bereft of ideas as to how the same money is to be made in the first place.

Yours truly,
EDWARD THOMAS,
Flat 4, 21 Jevington Gardens,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
March 15.

Weekend Money letters, page 46

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Ancient Basque links with Georgia

From Mr Gerald Stonehill

Sir, Your report (March 20) linking the Basque language with Etruscan, and your leading article affirming that Basque has no known link with any other language, is misleading, nor does it follow that Basque origins must be sought only in Africa.

The Ancient Greeks recognised a second Iberia, coexisting near the Caucasus in modern Georgia. Recall, too, "The Hyrcanian cliffs Of Caucasus and dark Iberian dales" (Milton, *Paradise Regained*, iii, 318), or: "You enter into the Iberians region, who are separated from the Albanois by the river Alazon, which runneth downe from the Caucasian hills." (Pliny i, 119, in Holland's translation, cited by the *Oxford English Dictionary*). (Ibayerri in Basque means "the country of the river".)

In the Stalin era the Georgian philologist Aleksander Kiknadze catalogued more than 360 words identical or very similar in the Georgian and Basque languages, such as those for people, mountain crests, wheels and grain. The Russian biologist and botanist Nikolay Vavilov (d 1943) found that Basque wheat was similar to a Georgian variety, unmatched anywhere else.

Moreover, the syntax and grammatical structure of the two languages are alike, and anthropologists have traced further resemblances in folk music and dances and in family customs and traditions. The clincher was the unearthing in Bilbao of the "Iberian tablet", which defied decipherment until the Georgian Shota Khvevelidze, who had studied ancient Georgian, was called in. After much study, he translated the text:

> In the year 4100 the earth heaved with a mighty roar. The wise Rio reminded his countrymen that this had happened once before, when part of the Iberian land was swallowed up. It was therefore imperative to leave and follow the sun's course. Rio managed to collect several hundred thousand people and headed in the direction of the sunset. There they found a new homeland . . .

In Basque tradition legends also tell how their ancestors came from the east at the time of "a giant battle between fire, earth and water". Kiknadze suggests that this could have coincided with the cataclysm that overwhelmed the Minoans in Crete c 1500 BC.

It would be quite within expectations that the Caucasian Iberians would have left clues, as in Tuscany, of their migration to the west.

Yours etc,
GERALD STONEHILL,
One The Boltons, SW10.
March 20.

High life

From Mr Peter Blunt

Sir, Financial worries have always beset Oxford and Cambridge colleges vying to put on the best summer ball. Only the figures change (report, March 17).

The 1960 Merton Commem Ball Committee decided to set an expensive double-ticket price of £10. This included an all-night champagne buffet with breakfast, and dancing in marquees to the legendary Sid Phillips and his Band, a Calypso singer, a Trinidad steel band (a first for Oxford) and a piper for reels.

There was the usual cabaret, for which we had risked the considerable sum of £40 on four unknown students, who were about to open a review that summer on the Edinburgh Fringe, their names being Cook, Moore, Bennett and Miller. The midnight show eventually started after some delay, with one member missing (Dr Miller had hospital duties), and I feared the worst.

The entertainment was understandably a riotous success, but when the committee met after the ball to pay the bills, we thought long and hard before paying the full fee for only three out of the four performers.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BLUNT,
6 Park View Terrace,
Worcester.
March 19.

From Mr C. F. Dayer

Sir, I find it very hard to understand how undergraduates, who are supposedly hard-pushed financially, are able to spend around £100 on a May Ball.

Yours sincerely,
C. F. DAYER,
40 Fesants Croft,
Harlow, Essex.
March 17.

Misdirected male

From Major-General L. de M. Thuillier

Sir, I have just received a communication addressed to Ms Maj-Gen L. Thuillier offering me a free sample of Silkies tights and informing me that 66 million women have already received theirs. The letter bears the heading: "The most beautiful legs in the world wear Silkies."

Am I now to believe that I harbour an errant gene which, at my advanced age, is about to change my sex?

I am, Sir, yours truly (still male),
LESLIE THUILLIER,
The Red Barn,
Patney, Devizes, Wiltshire.
March 17.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 21: The Queen arrived this morning at Mansfield Station and was received by Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire).

Her Majesty drove to Queen Elizabeth's Endowed School, Mansfield, and was received by the Chairman of the Governors and Trustees (Councillor John Carter) and the Head Teacher (Mrs Nicola Atkin).

The Queen unveiled the Lady Flogan Memorial and afterwards toured the school.

Her Majesty later arrived in Nottingham City Centre and was received by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Barrie Parker), who escorted The Queen along the Processional Way to the Council House, meeting schoolchildren and representatives from the uniformed organisations.

At the Council House Her Majesty unveiled a plaque to commemorate the Centenary of the City, visited the City of Nottingham's Centenary Exhibition and met the Mayors of the City's twin towns, before viewing the plans for a new Millennium Ice Stadium.

The Queen subsequently attended a Luncheon given by the Lord Mayor.

Her Majesty this afternoon visited the new Nottingham Courthouse and was received by the Chairman of the Magistrates' Court Committee (Mr George Fish).

The Queen later visited Boots the Chemist, Beeston, Nottingham, was received by the Chairman (Sir Michael Angus) and unveiled a foundation stone for the new headquarters building.

Her Majesty afterwards visited Boots Contract Manufacturing Development Laboratories and was received by Mr Melvyn Brown (Chief Executive) and the Mayor of Broxtowe (Councillor John White).

The Queen subsequently visited Boots Healthcare International and was received by Mr Barry Clare (Managing Director).

The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, this morning gave a Press Conference at the Prince George Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

His Royal Highness later attended a Luncheon for the World Wide Fund for Nature - Canada Wildlife Rescue team at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel. The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon chaired an Endangered Species Workshop at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography.

Afterwards, at the Halifax Hotel, His Royal Highness, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees, presented certificates to young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Canadians Challenge.

This evening The Duke of Edinburgh attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the World Trade Club.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

March 21: The Duke of York this afternoon visited the Defence Technology Stand at the Year of Engineering Success Exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and was received by Mr Roger Burman (Deputy Lieutenant of West Midlands).

March 21: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, and Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, today undertook engagements in New Delhi, India.

His Royal Highness this morning attended presentations on the Indian Award North Zone, visited the Award exhibition and attended a Reception with Gold Award recipients at Vasant Valley School, Vasant Kunj. The Prince Edward afterwards visited Qtub Minar and Humayun's Tomb.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency the Hon Sir David Gore-Booth), this afternoon attended a Luncheon given by the Confederation of Indian Industry at the Taj Palace Hotel.

The Prince Edward later attended a meeting with Shri Kocheril Raman Narayanan (Vice-President of India).

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Reception at the British Council and launched the North India Alumni Directory of Indians who have studied in Great Britain, particularly those who have received the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chevening Awards and the Charles Wallace India Trust Awards.

The Prince Edward afterwards attended a Dinner given by the British High Commissioner at the Residence.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 21: The Prince of Wales, President, this afternoon attended the BT Swimathon in aid of The Prince's Trust at The Queen Mother Sports Centre, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 21: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Junior Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 21: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning arrived at Gatwick Airport, London, from Bermuda.

Dinners

Blacksmiths' Company

The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their Ladies, attended the annual livery dinner of the Blacksmiths' Company held last night at Mansion House. Mr Rodney Lyons, Prime Warden, presided, assisted by the Wardens. Among the guests were Major General P.V.R. Besgrove, Director, General Equipment (Army), and Brigadier R. Pridham, Commandant, Royal Military School of Engineering, Chatham.

Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen

Mr Roger Persey, Master of the the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter, assisted by the Wardens and Court of Assistants, presided at a dinner held last night at Tuckers' Hall, Exeter, in honour of Mr Richard Davis, Master of the Clothworkers' Company, and the Rev Peter Taylor, immediate Past Master of the Drapers' Company.

Sir Godfray le Quesne, QC

The judges, past and present, and officers of the Courts of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey held a dinner in Middle Temple last night to mark the recent retirement of Sir Godfray le Quesne, QC, from th Bench. Sir Godfray had been appointed when the courts were set up in 1964.

Montgomeryshire Society

Mr David H.O. Owen, President of the Montgomeryshire Society, presided at the seventieth anniversary dinner held last night at the Reform Club. Mr David Carey Evans was the speaker and Professor Kenneth Morgan also spoke.

London University Inner Temple Society

Judge Elfer was the guest of honour at a dinner given last night at Canary Wharf by London University Inner Temple Society to mark the final round of the intercollegiate mooting competition. Mr Peter Petts, chairman of the society, presided.

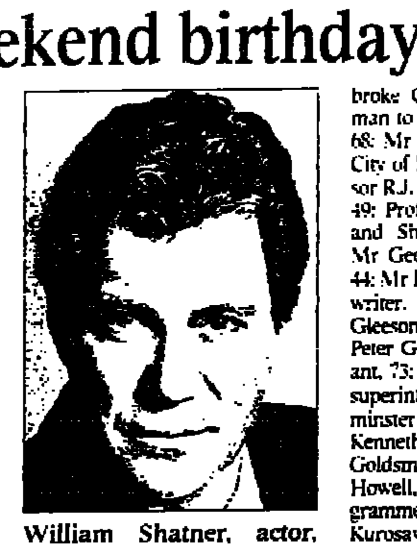
Luncheon

The London Institute

The Chairman of the London Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham was the host at a luncheon held on Wednesday, March 19, at the Institute's headquarters in Davies Street, W1. The guests included:

Mr Stuart Hampson, Chairman of John Lewis Partnership plc; Mr Bruce Oldfield, OBE; Mr Clinton Silver, CBE, Chairman of the British Fashion Council; Mr Robert Bright, Governor, The London Institute; Mrs Jenifer Rosenberg, OBE, Governor, The London Institute; Sir William Stubbs, Rector, The London Institute and Jane Rapley, Dean of Fashion and Textiles, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design.

Weekend birthdays



William Shatner, actor, Captain Kirk in *Star Trek*, beams up to 66 today

TODAY: Lord Alport, 85; Miss Laraine Ashton, fashion models' agent, 51; Mr George Benson, singer and guitarist, 54; Viscount Bolingbroke, 70; Mrs Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 69; Miss Sheila Cameron, QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 63; Mr Philip Ely, former President, Law Society, 61; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 48; Mr D.C. Ingman, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 69; the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 71; Professor Harry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 78; Lord Lloyd-Webber, 49; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 74; Mr R.P. Mardling, Headmaster, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, 53; Mr Alan Opie, baritone, 52; Mr C.S. Pick, publisher, 80; Sir Lynden Pindling, former Prime Minister of the Bahamas, 67; Professor William Ritchie, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University, 57; Mr Paul Schockemöhle, showjumper, 52; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer and lyricist, 67; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, Council of Science and Technology Institutes, 72; Lord Stokes, 83; Mr Leslie Thomas, author, 66; Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, 65; Professor Sir Leslie Turnberg, President, Royal College of Physicians, 63; Miss Fanny Waterman, concert pianist and teacher, 77; Professor D. Watson, director, Brighton University, 48; Miss Priscilla Yates, a former director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 50.

TOMORROW: Princess Eugenie of York is 7 today.

Professor H.C Allen, American historian, 80; Mr Michael Atherton, cricketer, 29; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 64; Sir Roger Bannister, former Master, Pembroke College, Oxford, and first man to run sub-four minute mile, 68; Mr Bryan Bass, Headmaster, City of London School, 63; Professor R.J. Bennett, FBA, geographer, 49; Professor Francis Berry, poet and Shakespearean scholar, 82; Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, 44; Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer, 62; Professor Michael Gleeson, otolaryngologist, 49; Mr Peter Godfrey, chartered accountant, 73; the Rev Dr Peter Graves, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 54; Professor Kenneth J. Gregory, Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 59; Ms Lis Howell, former director of programmes, GMTV, 46; Mr Akira Kurosawa, film director, 87; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, chairman, Allied London Properties, 64; Sir David McNee, former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 72; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 68; Mr Andrew Mitchell, MP, 41; Mr Alfred Morris, MP, 69; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 53; Sir Ralph Perring, former Lord Mayor of London, 92; Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, Merseyside Development Corporation, 62; Dr P.R. Scott, Headmaster, Bancroft's School, Woodford Green, 47; Sir Ian Todd, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 76; Sir Edward Warner, diplomat, 86; Sir Denis Wright, diplomat, 86.

Faculty of Public Health Medicine

The Princess Royal delivered the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother lecture, followed by a reception in her honour at the Royal College of Physicians of London to mark the 25th anniversary of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine on March 20. The President, Dr June Crown, was the host at the 25th anniversary dinner. The guests included:

Professor Sir Richard Doll, Professor J.N. Morris, Dr W. Harding, Dame Rosemary Rue, Professor W.W. Holland, Professor Sir Cyril Chantler, Dame Deirdre Hine, Sir Henry Yellowlees, Sir Donald Acheson, Lady Alexander of Weedon, Sir Christopher Paine, Mr P. Hunt, Dr R. Maxwell, the Mayor of Camden, Councillor G. Lazenby, representatives of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, the President of the Royal College of Nursing and the Presidents of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties.

University news

Jesus College, Cambridge

Professor David George Crichton, FRS, Professor of Applied Mathematics and Fellow of St John's College, has been elected Master of the college from September 30, 1997.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, Antwerp, 1599; William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, statesman, London, 1684; William I, King of Prussia 1861-88, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1797; Carl Rosa, founder of the opera company bearing his name, Hamburg, 1842; "Chico" Marx, actor and comedian, New York, 1891; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, Liverpool, 1910; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, Berlin, 1925.

DEATHS: Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer, Paris, 1687; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, Weimar, Germany, 1832; Thomas Hughes, politican and author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Brighton, 1896; Frederick William Farrar, writer of school stories and Dean of Canterbury 1895-1903, Canterbury, 1903; Michael Todd, film magnate, killed in an air crash, New Mexico, 1958.

Because of a drought the American side of the Niagara Falls ran short of water, 1903.

The first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London, 1907.

The Arab League was founded in Cairo, 1945.

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Giessen, Germany, 1854; Sir Muirhead Bone, water colourist and etcher, Glasgow, 1876; Juan Gris, painter and pioneer of Cubism, Madrid, 1887; Joan Crawford, actress, San Antonio, Texas, 1908; Wernher von Braun, pioneer of rocketry, Wirsitz, Germany, 1912; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, Barnes, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records, Horley, Surrey, 1921.

DEATHS: Stendahl (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, Paris, 1842; Raoul Dufy, painter, Forcalquier, France, 1953.

London's first tramcars, designed by a Mr Train of New York, began operating from Bayswater, 1861.

An Italian socialist journalist, Benito Mussolini, formed the Fascists to fight liberalism and communism, 1919.

Austin Peay, Governor of Tennessee, signed a statute forbidding the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in state schools, 1925.

The first official meeting for 400 years between the heads of the Catholic and Anglican Churches took place in Rome, 1966.

Memorial service

Group Captain George Montgomery

The Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Group Captain Monty Montgomery, former Secretary of Norfolk Naturalists' Trust and Honorary Appeal Secretary of the University of East Anglia, held yesterday in Norwich Cathedral. The Canon Pastor officiated and the Vice-Dean pronounced the blessing.

Mr Patrick Montgomery and Mr Michael Montgomery, sons, read the lessons. Mr Keith McDougall gave an address.

The Archdeacon of Norwich, Canon Michael McLean and the Rev Piers Currie were robed and in the sanctuary.

Dulwich College

Dulwich College is pleased to announce the following awards:

At 13+

C D Broad Scholarship: O J Mufti, Bickley Park School.

Harold Penney Scholarships: P R J Hazell, Dulwich College Preparatory School; S R P Joyce, Dulwich College Preparatory School.

Hartley Shawcross Scholarships: T A Edmonds, Dulwich College Preparatory School; P B M Marsh, Dulwich College Preparatory School; H M Michell, Dulwich College Preparatory School; J E B Weatherill, Dulwich College Preparatory School.

Dr H M Fisher Scholarship: N D W Ashcroft, Rokeby School.

Alleyn Club Scholarship: J E Powles, Dulwich College Preparatory School.

Art Scholarship: C M Milner, Dulwich College Preparatory School.

Music Scholarship: N Spiers, King's College Cambridge Choir School.

At 11+

Bainbridge Scholarships: T P Grundy, Rosemead Preparatory School; J W-T Wong, Rosemead Preparatory School; W E B Day, Southwark Small School; C Long, Bessemer Grange Primary School; T M L Pullin, Dulwich College Lower School; E W Roberts, Dulwich College Lower School; M Selvan, Dulwich College Lower School.

D C Bauer Scholarships: J W H Barton, Horniman Primary School; A Clare, Eliot Bank Primary School; T Tanaka, Elmhurst Preparatory School; P Haviland, John Ball Primary School; J Pelzig, Honeywell Junior School.

Lorraine Wilson Memorial Scholarships: B A Olagbaiye, Rosemead Preparatory School; J W F Usherwood, Rosemead Preparatory School; T A Stofer, Dulwich College Lower School; C J O Owen, Dulwich College Lower School.

C C P Tanner Memorial Scholarship: D Y S Lau, Worsley Bridge Junior School.

Music Scholarships: M A Taylor, Bickley Park School; J G Sippreil, St Luke's C of E Primary School.

At 10+

W E Grey Scholarships: S B Block, Worsley Bridge Junior School; J Maru, Cumnor House School; B F Smith, Our Lady and St Philip Neri School; J Z-Y A P Salter, Clapham Manor Primary School.

Service dinner

4th Parachute Brigade (1942-44)

Colonel Geoffrey Powell presided at the annual dinner of the officers' dinner club of the 4th Parachute Brigade (1942-44) Group held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.H.D. Bawtree and Miss P.J.B. Daniel

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Bawtree, of Cowden, Kent, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Daniel, of Chew Stoke, Somerset.

Mr M.J. Browning and Miss S.H. Haywood

The engagement is announced between Marcus James, son of Dr and Mrs Hugh Browning, of Harlequin House, Lasham, Hampshire, and Sarah Helen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Haywood, of Dulwich International College, Phuket, Thailand.

Mr N.A. Collingridge and Miss S.L. Northey

The engagement is announced between Neil, only son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Collingridge, of Tavistock, Devon, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr Christopher Northey, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Mrs Stella Ziegler, of Vevey, Switzerland.

Mr G. Lightwood and Miss H. Harman

The engagement is announced between Gary, second son of Mr and Mrs Peter Lightwood, of Weston-super-Mare, and Henrietta, only daughter of Mrs Carolyn Harman and the late Mr Michael Harman, of Bristol.

Mr A.P. Marcell and Miss C.M. Bruno

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Philip Marcell, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Carol, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bruno II, of Long Island, New York.

Mr C.C. Pilling and Miss C.A. Beckett

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Pilling, of Winder House, Laughterton, Lincoln, and Caroline (Bumble), daughter of Mr John Beckett and the late Mrs Angela Beckett, and stepdaughter of Mrs Jan Beckett, of Hampton Bye, Malpas, Cheshire.

Mr C.J. Walcot and Miss K.S. Walters

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Professor and Mrs P. Walcot, of Lisvane, Cardiff, and Kathryn, elder daughter of Major and Mrs C. Walters, of Lisvane, Cardiff.

Liverpool College

The Governors have appointed Mr J.P. Siviter, MA(Oxon), CPhys, FInstP, as Principal from September 1997. Mr Siviter is at present Deputy Headmaster at Bancroft's School, Essex.

Church services tomorrow

Palm Sunday

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, God so loved (Stainer), The Provost: 6.30 ES, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons).

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Blessed Jesu fount of mercy (Dvorak), The Dean: 3.15 Confirmation Service, Modal Euch (White), The Archbishop.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Drop drop slow tears (Gibbons); 11 S Euch, Kyrie aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Crux fidelis (King John IV of Portugal): 3.30 Confirmation, Pray that Jerusalem (Psalter).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Christus factus est (Bruckner), Go to dark Gethsemane (Bach); 4 Choral E, It is a thing most wonderful (Moore), Rt Rev P Hall.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, All glory laud and honour (arr. Bach), Canon Hall: 10.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 4 Choral E.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Holy Euch, Plainsong, The Dean: 3.30 E, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Crucifixus a 8 (Lotti): 3.30 Choral E, O sing unto the Lord (Purcell), Canon A Redfern.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Procession & Choral Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Hutchings): 3.15 The Crucifixion (Stainer); 5 Gosber, Emynau.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10.50 Blessing of Palms, Procession & S Euch, Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria), The Dean; 3.15 E & Admission of Assistant Organist, Timor et tremor (Poulenc); 6.30 Compline, Rev P Brett.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, O saviour of the world (Goss); 3 E, Short Service (Byrd).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC, The Acting Provost; 9.30 Procession & Euch, Canon B Thompson; 11.15 Procession & Sung Euch, Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), Canon D Knight; 4 Baptism; 6 Reading & Music for Passiontide.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Blessing & Pro, The Dean; 11.30 Choral Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 11.30 Choral M, The Lamentation of Jeremiah (Bairstow), Canon O Conway; 3.30 Choral E, All glory (Bach); 6.30 E, Canon O Conway.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Pueri Hebraeorum (Palestrina), Rev J McKechnie; 11 Procession & S Euch, Drop drop slow tears (Leighton); 3.30 E, Blair in B minor, Glory and honour and laud (Wood).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Miserere (Victoria), Canon Webster; 11.15 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Hosanna (Weelkes), Canon Peirce; 6 E, Christus factus est (Bruckner).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Procession of Palms and Euch, Noi mortem (Morley), Canon P Oestreicher; 3 German Lutherans; 3 Polish Lutherans; 5 E, Thou knowest Lord (Purcell).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes); 6 E, Dyson in D, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), The Provost.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon D Hodgson; 10 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Canon D Brown; 11.15 HC, Drop drop slow tears (Leighton), Canon S Pedley; 3.30 E, Rubbra in A flat.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Rev J McFarlane; 10.30 Procession & S Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Trepte), Rev J Inge; 3.45 E, First Service (Shepherd).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Said; 10 Procession of Palms and S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 3.30 E, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 6.30 E, Hosanna to the Son of David (Moore), Canon K Parry.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Blessing of Palms & Procession, The Passion according to St Mark (Sanders); 3 E, Dyson in D, Greater love (Ireland), Canon N Chatfield.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev Dr I Fisher; 10.30 S Euch, St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Salvator mundi (Tallis), The Dean; 6.30 E, Rubbra in A flat, Let all the world (V Williams), Canon Dr M Palmer.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 10 The Liturgy, Plainsong; Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Glory and honour and laud (Wood), The Chancellor.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Hosannah to the Son of David (Weelkes); 4 Choral E, First Service (Tomkins), Hear my prayer O Lord (Purcell), Organ Music (Bach).

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Liturgy of Palm Sunday with Procession of Palms, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), St Matthew Passion (Victoria); 3.30 E, E, The Fifth Service (Tomkins), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 11.15 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), It is a thing most wonderful (Ireland); 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, O Lord my God why hast thou forsaken me (Humfrey), Canon J Bayley.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Litany, Proc & Euch; 3 Choral E, Canon M Boyling; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy Euch, The Dean; 9 Proc & Parish Euch, The Dean; 10.45 Proc & S Euch, Missa Brevis (Preston), Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes), The Dean; 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30 Music & Readings for the Passion; 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev M Tomlinson.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 4 Crucifixion (Stainer); 6.30 E, Solus ad Victiman (Leighton), Canon J Atherton.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), St Mark Passion (Sanders), Salvator mundi (Blow); 3.30 E, Vinea mea electa (Poulenc), Rev M Talbot; 6.30 Young People's Euch, Mass of St Thomas (Thorne).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 9.30 M, Benedicite in G (Jackson); 10.30 Procession of Palms & Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), The Dean; 3.30 E, Glory and honour (Wood); 7.30 St John Passion (Bach).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Call to remembrance (Farrant), Canon D Isaac; 5.30 Diocesan Pilgrimage, Rev Dr P Newell.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Rev D Murfet; 9 Palm Procession, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes); 9.30 Euch, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Canon M Glanville-Smith; 11.30 M, The Lamentation of Jeremiah (Bairstow), Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons); 12.30 Euch, Canon E Eason; 3 Holy Baptism; 5.30 E, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Jackson in G), Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), Canon K Punshon.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Salvator Mundi (Tallis), All glory (Bach); 10.30 Procesion of Palms, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes), S Euch and Reading of the Passion, Salvator Mundi (Tallis); 3.15 E, If ye love me (Tallis), Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC & Blessing of Palms, Canon D Durston; 10 Proc of Palms & Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes), Missa Bel'amfitrit altera (Orlando di Lasso); 11.45 M, The Lamentation (Bairstow), Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), Canon D Durston; 3 E, Stanford in C, Glory and honour and laud (Wood).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch & Blessing of Palms, Congregational Mass, Pueri Hebraeorum (Palestrina), Canon C Smith; 4 Company of Cathedral Change Ringers; 6.30 E & Sermon, Murrill in E, Hosanna (Weelkes), The Provost.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, The Provost; 11 Choral Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), God so loved the world (Stainer), Reading of the Passion; 3 Choral E, Fifth Service (Tomkins), Miserere (Allegri), Angela Tilby.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litany, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion, The Provost; 11 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons), The Precentor; 3.15 E, Collegium Regale (Wood), Glory and honour (Wood); 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne); 2.30 Confirm Serv; 6 E, Christus factus est (Bruckner), The Treasurer.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Provost; 9.15 Parish Com, Benedictus (Fauré), Canon R Capper; 11 Solemn Euch, Mass (Monteverdi), St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Glory and honour (Wood), Canon I Knox; 4 Music & Readings.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC with Blessing of Palms; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Very Rev R Lewis, 3 E, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Rev P Walker.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), Canon D Hutt; 11.15 Blessing of Palms, Procession & Abbey Euch, Passion according to St Matthew (Victoria); 3 E, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening, Rev B Fenton.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 9 Family Mass; 10 Solemn Procession & Mass, Improperium expectavi (Lassus); 2.45 Recital; 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Lassus), O crux ave spes unica (Morales); 7.45 Taize Prayer for Young Adults.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 10 Blessing of Palms & Procession; 10.30 Liturgy of Palm Sunday, Mass in F sharp minor (Widor); 3.30 E, Collegium Regale (Tavener), The Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Misa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Passion according to St Matthew (Victoria); 4 E, Wood in F, Glory and honour (Wood); 6.30 Concert.

ST ALBAN CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Benedictus qui venit (Palestrina); 11.15 Solemn Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes); 6.30 E, The Short Service (Byrd), Salvator mundi (Tallis), Rev M Pryce.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch & Procession, Collegium Regale (Howells), Hosanna to the Son (Weelkes), Rev A Mitchell; 3.30 Choral E, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Y Deon; 9.30 Family, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral Euch, The Dean; 6 Choral E, O thou sweetest source (Wood), V Rev Dr G MacWilliam.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Rev R Davey; 10 S Euch, Canon M Shaw, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Sanderstead Service (How), Caldara in G, Author of life divine (Edwards), Ex ore Innocentium (Ireland); 11.45 HC; 3.30 Choral E, O sacred head sore wounded (Bach), Blair in B minor.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M, Hosanna Filio David (Terry), Pueri Hebraeorum (Palestrina), Blessing & Distribution of Palms at all Masses, Archbishop M Bowen; 2.30 Nigerian Mass; 5, Stations of the Cross.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC, The Minister; 10 Morning HC, The Minister, Missa brevis (Ives); 11.30 Palm Sunday, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), The Minister; 6 Lenten Address & Music; 8 Evening, Rev C Kenny.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 3.30 EP; 6.30 Songs of Praise, Congregational hymn singing.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning, Rev F Frazer; 6 Evening, Rev F Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC with Blessing & Distribution of Palms; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch with Blessing & Distribution of Palms, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev S Oliver; 3.15 E, St Paul's Service (Chapple), Glory and honour and laud (Wood), Rev Dr E Morris.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and tradit polyphony. Diocesan Bish Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mass in B flat, Rachmaninov, The Vicar; 6 E&B Service in B flat, Rachmaninov, Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 Preb R Bewes; 6.30 Guest Service, Rev D Peterson.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 10.45 Missa rorate coeli de super (Haydn), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), In manus tuas Domine (Wilton).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's; 11 M, Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Spiritual), Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Mr T Peek; 11 Morning, Rev S Downham; 5, 7 Informal, Mr J Jennings.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, St Mark Passion (Lassus), Improperium expectavi (Palestrina); 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, Civitas sancti tui (Byrd).

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Service of Music & Meditation for Holy Week.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), The Passion (Victoria), The Rector; 6.30 Into the Hands of Sinners for Holy Week.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Stanford in B flat, Robinson in C, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), O hearken thou (Elgar), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), O vos omnes (Gesualdo), Rev R Lee.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Very Rev Dr W Macmillan; 6.30 The temptations of Christ, Eric Thiman.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Hosanna filio David (Terry), Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria), Gloria Laus (Plainsong), Mass for four voices (Byrd), St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Improperium exspectavit (Lassus).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rheinberger in E flat, The Rector.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 6.30 Choral E, Lo the full final sacrifice (Finzi), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Seiber), Passion (Thomas Luis de Victoria), Ecce quomodo (Handl).

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 Blessing of Palms, Procession & S Euch, Missa simile est regnum (Vittoria), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes).

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Procession & Gospel Readings; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7.15 LM; 11 HM, Music by Weelkes, Anerio, Lassus & Victoria, Fr B Scott; 6 Stations of the Cross & Solemn Benediction

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Plainsong, Passion (Victoria), Hosanna (Gibbons/Weelkes), O vos omnes (Gesualdo).

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 Holy Euch; 9.45 Family Euch; 10.45 Assemble at St Peter's School, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Missa la Maistre Pierre (Lassus), St Mark Passion (Lassus)

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, Rev P Abram; 11 M & Sermon, Jubilate (Gardner), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Ven J Holliman.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 15 S Euch, Darke in A minor, Rev J Adams.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662); 11 M, The Lamentation, Bairstow/Plainsong, Hosanna to the Son (Gibbons); 3.30 Readings & Music for Holy Week.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 Procession & S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria), Fr E Wheat.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Stanford in G, Rev Stuart.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8 30 HC; 11.15 MP, The Miserere (Allegri), Benedictus (Davies in G), Glory and honour (Wood), The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Glory and Honour (Wood), Rev J Jennings, Band of the Scots Guards; 12 HC.

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BIRTHS

BELL - On March 17th, to Giles and Emma (née Boger), a son Joseph Richard Fancourt.

COX - On March 17th, to Chris and Kathy, a son, Simon James Christopher, a brother for Charlotte and Adam.

EVERSON - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Terry and Julie, a daughter, Charlotte, a sister for James.

KITTOW - On March 13th 1997, to Deborah (née Luppzian) and Jonathan, a son, John Fergus William 'Fergus', a brother for Anna and Lucy.

LOGAN GREEN - On March 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Rosanne (née Herrod) and Neil, a daughter, Freya Rose, a sister for Lucy.

NUGENT - On 13th March, to Rosemary and Jonathan, a son, Nicholas Owen Kendall, a brother for Timothy.

PEPPIATT - On March 19th, to Katherine (née Innes) and Giles, a son, Dominic Andrew Stingsby.

POTTER - On March 18th at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Johanna (née Hallett) and James, a son, Charles Nicholas William.

STANDISH - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Anna (née Pesre) and Nigel, a beautiful daughter, Georgia Alexandra.

STARR - On March 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Melissa and Mark, a son, Charles Alexander, a brother for Peter Harrison.

STEEL - On March 15th, to Daisy (née Gray) and Jonathan, a daughter, Jasmine, a sister for Jack and Poppy.

THOROUGHGOOD - On March 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Avalyn (née Weekes) and John, a son, Jonathan Austin William.

BIRTHS

WATANABE - On October 28th 1996 at the Portland Hospital to Itoe and Hideshige, a son, Kazuki, a brother for Michiko.

ANNIVERSARIES

BARNETT - James. To celebrate on 23rd March 1997 - our first wedding anniversary. All my love Janet.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

LUGTON - Rodney and Doris on 23rd March 1957. Congratulations and love from Andrew, Susan, Duncan and Martin.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CATON-NICHOLSON - Bill and Eileen celebrate 50 years of marriage on Saturday 22nd March 1997. Love and Congratulations!

DEATHS

ALLEN - On March 15th in his 100th year. Joseph Stanley Allen, of Ovingham, Northumberland. Architect & Town & Country Planner. Professor Emeritus of University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Widower of Mary Aubrey Pugh and Evelyn Meryl Watts, dear father of Elizabeth Jane and Aubrey Paul and a loved grandfather to his nine grandchildren. Funeral Service at St Mary's Chuch, Ovingham on Wednesday 26th March at 11.30 am followed by cremation at Newcastle Crematorium at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu if desired to Amnesty International.

DEATHS

AWDRY - Peacefully on 21st March at his home in Rodborough, Stroud, Glos., The Reverend Wilbert Vere Awdry O.B.E. aged 85 years. A much loved father and grandfather. There is to be a private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving for Friends and Parishioners at St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Rodborough on Wednesday March 26th at 12 noon. A Memorial Service is to be held, details of which will be announced later. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be sent for The Childrens Society c/o Philip Ford & Son, Funeral Directors, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.

BAKER - On 19th March at Monmouth Hospital after a short illness Muriel F.J. aged 74 years of Crockers Ash. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service and interment at Ganarew Church on Tuesday 25th March at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu for The Local Macmillan Nurses Fund may be sent to David Stockwell, Funeral Director, 16, Glendower Street, Monmouth, Gwent.

BRADLEY - Maurice (Jim) A.R.I.B.A. on March 20th 1997 at home, fortified by the rites of the Holy Church. Loving and much loved husband of Doreen. Funeral Tuesday March 25th at Heavitree R.C. Church, Exeter.

CAMPBELL - Brig. Alexander Purdon R.A.S.C. OBE (ret'd) on 20th March at Rottingdean. Loved father of Alastair and Anthea. Beloved by his grandchildren and great-grandchild. Devoted husband of Alex. Funeral Service on March 27th at 12 noon at Holy Trinity Church, Chrishall, near Royston, Herts. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to The K.C.J.O. c/o S. Newling & Son, Funeral Directors, 2 Palace Gardens, Royston, Herts., SG8 5AD.

CHAN - Stephanie Jeanne (née Tepper), dearly loved wife of William, adored mother of Jessica, Rebecca and Chloe, at the age of 46, on 20th March after a long illness bravely borne. Funeral Mortlake Crematorium Sunday 23rd March at midday. Donations to Bodley Scott 3 Ward Fund, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE. "Rage against the dying of the light".

CRAWFORD - Audrey Grimley peacefully at the St Andrews Memorial Hospital on Wednesday 19th March 1997, beloved wife of John, devoted mother of Virginia, Susanne and Rowena and adoring grandmother of their children. Service and burial at Dunino Church, near St Andrews, at 2 pm on Tuesday 25th March. Family flowers only. Donations to the Hospice, St Andrews Memorial Hospital, St Andrews.

DRAKE-BROCKMAN - On March 20th, in Oxford, the Rev. Archibald David, widower of Pamela, and dearly loved father, stepfather and grandfather. Funeral and interment at St Mary's Church, Grundisburgh, on Thursday March 27th at 3 pm. No flowers. Donations for St Mary's Church to E.B. Button & Son Ltd., 24 St John's Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1EB.

FIGGESS - Sir John KBE, CMG, peacefully on March 20th at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, aged 87. Dearly loved husband of Alette, father of Sandra and Mickey, grandfather of Alex, Nina and Charlie. Private funeral. No Memorial Service as wished. Family flowers only. Any donation to The Childrens Society, Edward Rudolph House, Margery Street, London WC1X 0JL.

GRAFFTEY-SMITH - Evgenia (Jane), widow of Sir Laurence Barton Grafftey-Smith, on 20th March 1997 peacefully at the Barking Hall Nursing Home, Needham Market, Suffolk in her 88th year. Much loved stepmother of Roger and Jinx Grafftey-Smith. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Coddenham, Suffolk on Wednesday 26th March at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Messrs Farthing, Singleton and Hastings of Ipswich, tel: (01473) 272711.

GROVER - Frederick on March 19th died peacefully at Princess Alice Hospice. Funeral on Wednesday 26th March 2.30 pm at Christchurch, New Malden. Family flowers only. If desired donations to Princess Alice Hospice, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 8NA.

HARVEY - John, peacefully on 18th March 1997 aged 87. Beloved husband of Barbara and good friend to many. For years W.S. (solicitor) in Oban. Funeral Service at Castleton Church, Sherborne at 2 pm on Monday 24th March followed by private cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Friends of The Yeatman Hospital. All enquiries to Eason Funeral Services, Sherborne, tel: (01935) 813479.

HASTINGS - The Hon. Lady D.L. Elizabeth Anne Marie Gabrielle on 20th March peacefully at Milton. Beloved wife of Stephen, after a long illness, borne in faith with limitless courage and cheerfulness. Funeral at Castor Church 11 am Wednesday 26th March followed by family burial at Marholm. A coach will meet the train leaving Kings Cross 0930 arriving Peterborough 1019. Flowers to John Lucas (Peterborough) Ltd., 31 Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough, PE1 3AE.

BINGHAM - On Thursday March 20th 1997 Gwyneth of St Just-in-Roseland, Cornwall. Much loved wife of Edward. Dear Mother of Jonathon, loving Granny of Zoe, Christopher and Alexander. Funeral Wednesday March 26th 2 pm at St Just-in-Roseland Church followed by cremation. Donations in lieu of flowers to Cancer Research Campaign. Enquiries to Tregunna, Funeral Director on 01872 273568.

KNIGHT - Peacefully in hospital, Joyce Stewart Knight of Pembrokeshire, dearly loved wife of Sqn. Ldr. B.J.S. Knight and devoted mother of Robert and Elizabeth. Cremation Service at Narberth Crematorium. No mourning. Donations in memory to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Dannie Thomas & Son F/D, Fishguard.

MILLER - Clare, much loved wife and friend to Douglas, dearly loved mother of Keith, Iain and Karen and to Theone and Emily and grandmother of Lauren, died suddenly but peacefully in her sleep on 18th March. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, at 2 pm 27th March. Enquiries and flowers to Walter G. Wortt, tel: (01932) 843143.

MOORE - Eileen Ruth, peacefully on 17th March 1997 at Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, aged 72 years. Dearly loved sister of Phyllis and Oliver, dear sister-in-law of Evelyn and loving aunt of Peter and Jennifer. Funeral Service at Spital Street Methodist Church, Dartford, on Wednesday 2nd April at 2pm. Flowers or donations if desired to The Ellenor Foundation or to The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, c/o Leverton Funeral Service, Lowfield Street, Dartford.

STOODLEY THOMAS - Suddenly but peacefully on Tuesday March 18th at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Gethyn, dearly beloved husband of Phyl, much loved father of Sian, Anne and Jeremy, adored grandfather of Gareth, Rhiannon, Olivia, Caroline and Ben, and affectionate father-in-law of Owen, David and Helen. Service to be held in Llandaff Cathedral at 12.30pm on Wednesday March 26th and afterwards at Cardiff Crematorium. No flowers please, donations if desired to Friends of Llandaff Cathedral, c/o 29 The Cathedral Green, Cardiff.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

FORSYTH - James "Jumbo" 22/3/96. Some say Cheltenham was the cause, but most say it was 48 years of fun, mystery, travel, blue trumpet, friendship and love. Death comes at the fulfillment of life. Though 48, he behaved like 24 and felt like 96 in the morning. He got his money's worth in life, the bookies and casino's got the balance. Poor old tax man - what a puzzle, he's ready for his interview now. From all his family and friends, God speed - to the next adventure and await us all for we shall all one day be together. Your winnings in life were the losses that so many people felt who were left behind to remember. In passing to celestial talk, your brother would appreciate some divine guidance on the turf or the wheel. All who knew Jamie will never forget - but after all he was a Forsyth. Is it really all over, we wonder ????

VAN LOO - Margot, died 23rd March 1992. A much loved wife, mother and grandmother. We miss her so much. G.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

CHADWICK - Major Harry Piers killed in Malaya whilst serving with the Green Howards. Never forgotten. Alma, Patricia, Adrian, Jason and Barbara.

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No 88 of 1996
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SIR VICTOR PRITCHETT

Sir Victor Pritchett, CH, CBE, short story writer, novelist and critic, died on March 20 aged 96. He was born on December 16, 1900.

Almost as old as the century, V. S. Pritchett became known as the chronicler of the age — a writer who celebrated the essence of Englishness and the changing face of society. A lingering representative of that lost breed, the man of letters, he wrote prolifically: short stories, novels, biographies, travelogues and reviews. The moment he had cleaned his pipe and put pen to paper, he said, he was under the spell of the language which had ruled him since he was ten.

Yet Pritchett lived at a slant to his society, sensitive to the pull of its undertow. He found his subject on the scrapheap of a literary tradition which, up until then, had found no place for treatments of lower middle-class commercial life. It was not even possible to write about such people without resorting to comedy, H. G. Wells once told Pritchett during a discussion of E. M. Forster's heavy handling of Leonard Bast. But Pritchett had grown up among such people and he pioneered a new way of writing about them, using colloquial speech to reveal an inner life, eschewing theoretical or philosophical analysis in favour of "a portrayal of character for its own sake".

The drama of the puritanical conscience was his domain. He revelled in what he called its "comedies of duplicity", its "eloquence of hypocrisy". His characters moved in an almost biblical world, burdened by shame and pride and guilt. Pritchett was alive to the terrors of the soul. But, weak and sinful though his characters may have been, he was never censorious. "I'd much sooner see them go on unpunished," he said. "I think the incurable side of human nature is what appeals to me." He entered into their predicaments with directness and sympathy. When in 1990 his stories were all finally collected together into a single cuboid volume, one reviewer described them as "a million little epiphanies [which] build up something vast".

Pritchett's novels — as he himself admitted — took second place to his stories. Although characters such as Mr Beluncle proved fine comic creations in the tradition of Dickens, the structure of the whole was flawed. But Pritchett's biographies of Flaubert, Balzac and Turgenev were scholarly and sensitive.

As a book reviewer in the *New Statesman*, with which he was closely involved for some fifty years, Pritchett seemed able to enter into the minds of authors as diverse as Gide and Tolstoy, Lawrence and Dickens. His reviews were described as a mixture of "generous connoisseurship and inspired psychology". With a modesty characteristic of his refined civility, he did not, as a reviewer, consider himself interesting beyond his reaction to the author he was writing about. He never pompously brandished the personal pronoun, or succumbed to what he called "the technological habits" of academic criticism. He vigorously refused to view literature as some sort of esoteric game, played for the benefit of the literary establishment.

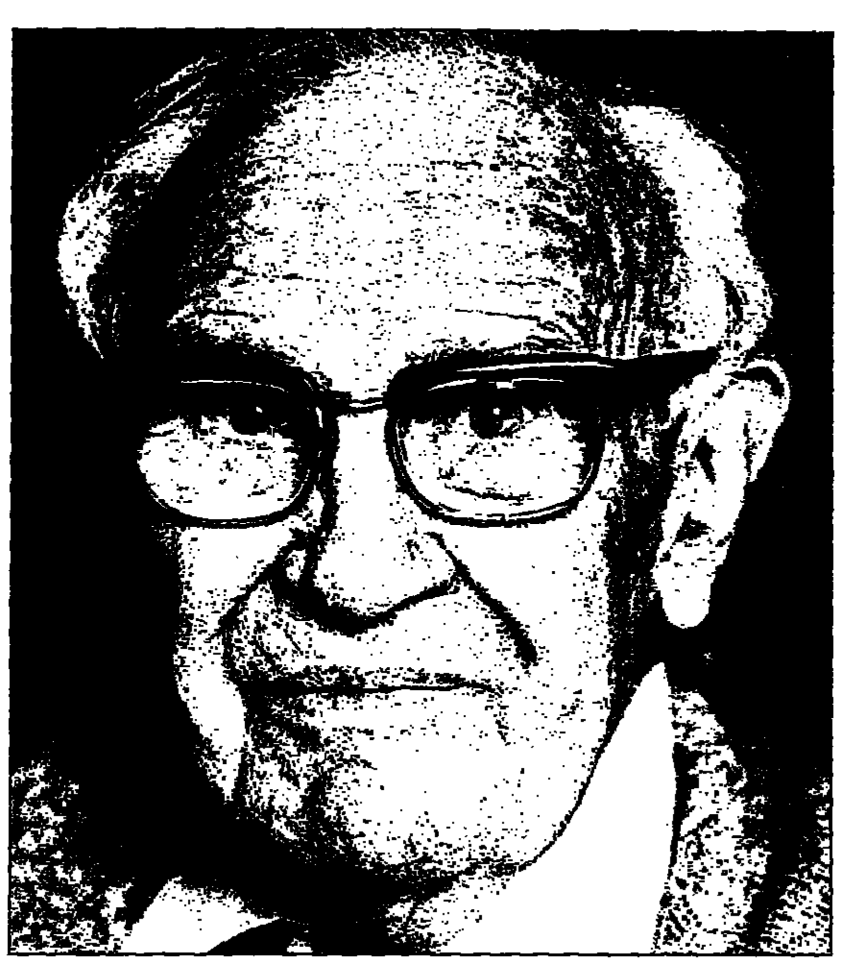
Victor Sawdon Pritchett was born in Ipswich but brought up in London. His loyal parents named him after Queen Victoria — still on the throne, though ailing, at the time he was born. But he never liked the name, not least because as a child he had known a vicious baby-biting dog called Victor. For most of his life he hid behind his initials, and was always known as VSP to family and friends.

His childhood was peripatetic. His mother, Beatrice, he described as "a rootless London pagan, a fog-worshipper, brought up on the London streets". His father was a Micawberish figure, perennially insolvent but strutting through life in a natty suit, eternally optimistic that his latest business venture would come good. Together they drifted from suburb to suburb, from one red-brick villa to the next, the only continuity in the young Victor's life a moveable clutter of potted palms and mottoed ornaments. On the morning of each move, he recalled, a cab would draw up at the door, while his mother wept and his father tried to jolly her along, singing old music-hall songs: "Oh dry those tears, oh calm those fears, life will be brighter tomorrow."

But Pritchett and his two brothers and sister were as inquisitive and energetic as any children. Enchanted by "the lurid quality of industrial London", he loved wandering the streets. His two-volume autobiography, *A Cab at the Door* (1968) and *Midnight Oil* (1971), is redolent of the bowler-hatted, Edwardian era of gaslight, smogs and Wesleyan chapels, breweries, tan-yards, port and stout. As a boy Pritchett longed to be one of the urchins scavenging among the horse-drawn traffic: "They wore wide-brimmed hats and lived so dangerously."

His enthusiasm for literature was awakened young. He met local people with interesting literary pretensions — neighbours such as the ardent Fabian Socialist with his splendid collection of Green classics, or the blowsy Mrs O'Dwyer, always ready to discuss Racine and Montesquieu. At home Pritchett was nicknamed "the professor" and treated as "a tolerated joke".

It was while he was a pupil at Alleyn's School, Dulwich, that he decided he wanted to write. While his father was away during the First World War, he, as the eldest child, was left to look after his mother at home. One night there was a zeppelin raid. He remembered dashing out into the streets amid a crowd of excited children to see the huge silver airship, gleaming in the convergence of the searchlight beams. Suddenly the zeppelin was hit. The children watched it buckling



and breaking apart, falling like a vast vermilion torchflame beyond the roofline.

At school the next day, the children were asked to describe what they had seen. But after Victor had written down "Bang! Boom!" he felt that he was stuck. Only when he remembered how sorry he had felt for his mother did his thoughts begin to flow. "I hit by this accident on the first duty of the novelist, to become someone else," he later said. "I pretended to be my mother and in her person, told what she felt as she called her children down and hysterically thought of her husband."

Pritchett was not to go on to further education. Quite arbitrarily his parents decided, on the day that his father was derailed on the Manchester-London express, that he must leave school at 15 and go to work in a tannery. For two years he took employment as a clerk for a company in Bermondsey, the traditional centre of the London leather trade. But what might have crushed a weaker literary ambition only fuelled Pritchett's own. He found Dickensian romance in his job. Amid the sulphurous fumes of the tannery, he saw strangeness and exoticism.

During his lunchbreaks he would roam London, wandering up Fleet Street to gaze at the newspaper buildings, visiting churches to listen to Bach fugues, strolling the streets of vice-ridden Soho and sitting on wharfsides watching dockers at work. "London was not a city," he wrote. "It was a foreign country as strange as India. Often I longed to be in love, but I already was in love. London was seeping into me without my knowing it."

When he was 19, Pritchett, "well smoked and kippered" by Bermondsey, left for Paris where he took work as a commercial traveller, selling shellac, glue and ostrich feathers from shop to shop. There he discovered a talent and passion for foreign languages and literatures. He learnt to speak French fluently, and later Spanish and German too — "well enough to dream in them," he said.

Left Bank culture was flourishing at this time, but Pritchett had little contact with it. He never met Henry Miller and, indeed, was so naive that losing his virginity became, he liked later to recall, the stuff of farce. So nervously faltering was his first purchase of contraceptives that, when the time eventually came to use them, he found he had been sold a box of liver pills.

Pritchett's first appearance in print was equally unusual: a two-sentence joke published in a newspaper. It could hardly have been this which gave him the taste for more, but in his early twenties he applied for a job as a foreign correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor* (his father had been a Christian Scientist). He was sent to Ireland during the Troubles, and then to Madrid. His first travel book was called *Marching Spain* (1928) and his first collection of short stories *The Spanish Virgin* (1930).

This collection of short stories was accepted for publication only on condition that it would be followed by two novels. Pritchett went on to write *Shirley Sanz* (1932) and *Nothing Like Leather* (1935). They sold only three or four hundred copies, the stories three or four thousand.

In 1928 Pritchett began book reviewing for the *New Statesman* (under the literary editorship of Raymond Mortimer). At first he saw his work there simply as a way to supplement a meagre publisher's advance, but his association with the magazine was to become a long and productive one. He reviewed for the *New Statesman* from 1928 to 1978, and in the 1950s even took the position of literary editor for a short while. But he never liked office life and detested "the bickerings of editors". "I have always worked almost secretly at home," he explained. "I am a natural solitary, and the only person I quarrel with is myself." In 1951 he joined the *New Statesman* board of directors and, while he tended to sit at board meetings rather like a doormouse, did not resign until 1978.

Pritchett married for the first time when he was very young but it was a brief liaison and was soon dissolved. He always used to say that his life only really fell into place when he met his second wife, Dorothy, on Guy Fawkes Night in 1934. It was a *coup de foudre* — the kind of passion, he used to say, which was the only kind of thing to make a man responsible. He knuckled down to the life of a writer, father and family man.

During the Second World War, Pritchett was employed by the Government to write pamphlets, surveying factories, shipyards and mines. Even this interruption of his writing career he turned to his advantage. He read the whole of Richardson's vast epistolary novel *Clarissa* on the train as he travelled round Britain making a study of the railway networks.

Pritchett claimed never to have been inside a university until he was 50, when he was asked to give a seminar — "I didn't even know what a seminar was." But he subsequently found himself lecturing all over America. In 1953 he was Christian Gauss lecturer at Princeton University and in 1962 Beckman Professor at Berkeley. He spent periods as writer-in-residence at Smith College, Massachusetts, and Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, and was visiting professor at Brandeis and Columbia universities. American students warmed to the tweedy Englishman with his pipe and thick-framed spectacles. He, on his side, was attracted by their refreshing directness and lively vernacular, though he did admit to finding American earnestness sometimes exhausting.

Pritchett used his time in America to indulge his passion for walking. In his youth he had tramped across France and Spain, drawing many of his ideas from strange human contacts made on the way. He was proud of the hundred-mile hike he made through the mountains from Johnson City in Tennessee to Ashville in North Carolina. Even in extreme old age he took pleasure in the rambles he made around Regent's Park.

At the beginning of the 1960s Pritchett moved with his family into a tall terraced house north of Regent's Park in a literary region of London where his neighbours included such people as Claire Tomalin and Alan Bennett. Here he continued his daily writing routine, working from nine until one every morning, and then, after lunch and a brief stroll in the streets (he passed himself off to any who accosted him as an old age pensioner called Pritchard), he returned to his desk from four until seven.

His manuscripts were penned in an insectile longhand which his wife later typed, making sportive guesses where words were indecipherable and laughing at his spelling mistakes. The typescripts were then meticulously corrected and recorrected by Pritchett, and typed out anew by his wife each time.

Pritchett was one of the most popular literary figures in London. In private he was a tower of strength to successive editors of the *New Statesman*, consistently seeking to promote talent. (He withdrew from the affairs of the periodical only when it ceased to believe in the values that he upheld.)

In 1968 he was appointed CBE, and from 1974 to 1976 was international president of PEN. He was knighted in 1975 and made a Companion of Honour in 1993. Many believe that he was wrongly overlooked for the Nobel Prize for Literature and he never won the Booker Prize because he chose the art of the short story rather than the novel.

Although Pritchett confessed that he was slowing with age, he was always ready to react to his times. "It seems to me that my life as a man and as a writer has been spent on crossing and recrossing frontiers," he said. "That is at the heart of any talent I have." As each decade rolled to its close, he would be asked to write about what it was like to be as old as the century, and these essays became milestones marking the changing times.

Pritchett is survived by his second wife, Dorothy, and by their daughter and son; the latter, Oliver, is a columnist on *The Daily Telegraph*. And the talent passes on into the third generation. Of Pritchett's five grandchildren, one, Georgia, is a television scriptwriter, and another, Matt, is the pocket cartoonist for *The Daily Telegraph*.

THE REV W. AWDRY

The Rev W. Awdry, OBE, clergyman and children's author who created Thomas the Tank Engine, died yesterday aged 85. He was born at Ampfield, Hampshire, on June 15, 1911.

WHEN in 1984 ITV introduced a series of films about Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends, it brought to the television screen a group of characters who had already enchanted several generations of children. From the day it started, almost by accident in 1945, the Rev W. Awdry's series of railway stories — "the train books with faces" — had been an enormous and instant success. Even before television brought the characters to a mass audience, the series had begun to assume the trappings of a small myth.

With the animated television films, however, narrated by the former Beatle Ringo Starr, the potential of the series was recognised by wider commercial forces, and Awdry's creations have since been turned to account in marketing more than five hundred products, from real model engines to pasta shapes. They have also been subject to almost every gimmick known to publishing, and are now found as pop-up books, bath books, sticker books and so *ad infinitum*.

Wilbert Vere Awdry's love of railways was with him from birth. His father, also a clergyman, was called "the railwayman parson", and was said to know more about the old Great Western Railway than most of its employees. Wilbert's later childhood was spent within earshot of the Bristol line, near Box Tunnel, and, along with his father, he became a model railway enthusiast. Asked later in life why so many Anglican clergymen seemed fascinated by steam trains, he would reply that "both parties are still the best means of getting people to their destination".

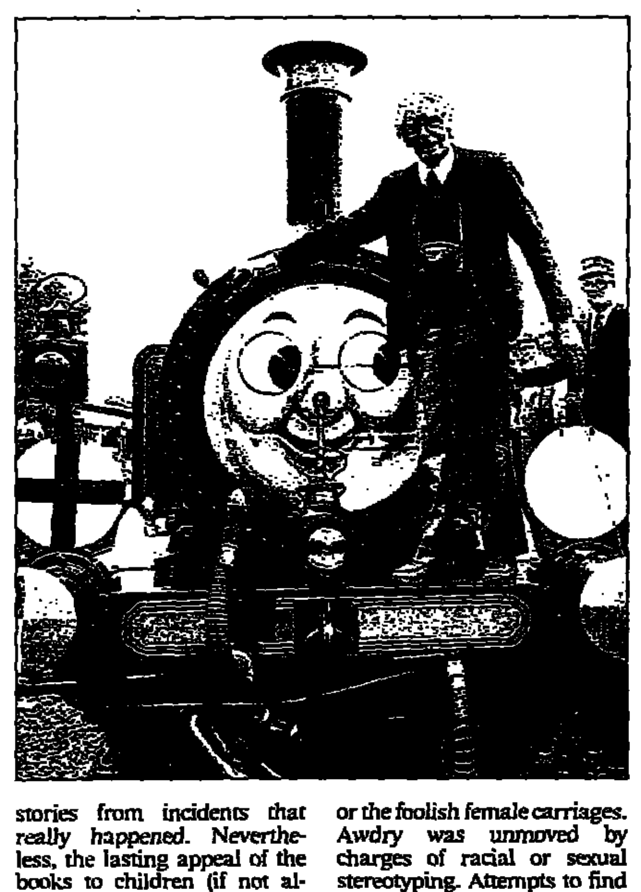
Awdry was educated in more formal matters at Dauntsey's in Wiltshire and at St Peter's College, Oxford, graduating in 1932 and going on to Wycliffe Hall to take a diploma in theology. He spent three years as an assistant master at St George's School, Jerusalem, before being ordained deacon in 1936, and priest a year later. He had a busy working life as a parson; after several curacies and rectorships, he became rural dean at Bourne in Cambridgeshire from 1950 to 1953. His last living was at Emneth in Norfolk, 1953-65, after which he moved to Stroud in Gloucestershire and devoted himself to writing full-time.

Awdry had married, in 1938, Margaret Emily Wale. It was for their son, Christopher, that the first of the railway stories were told, at a time when he was recovering from measles. Margaret Awdry thought her husband's stories too attractive to be forgotten and so began a complicated sequence of wartime negotiations in quest of a publisher. Eventually contact was made with Edmund Ward, a printer in Leicester, who was seeking to improve the provision of children's books in a time of dearth. He bought the first three little stories outright for a fee of £25 and worked on the manuscripts with Awdry, who had also contrived his own sketchy illustrations.

These stories, with one more added and with redrawn pictures, made up the first book, *The Three Railway Engines*, which appeared four days after VE-Day. With its successor, *Thomas the Tank Engine* (1946), it proved so successful that Ward turned the venture into a more professional operation, and from 1948 onwards Awdry produced a book a year, with illustrations prepared by C. Reginald Dalby in Awdry's manner. Other illustrators were also used before Awdry brought his part of the series to a close with *Tramway Engines* in 1972. Twenty-six titles in all had steamed along the tracks.

"The stories are all based on fact," Awdry once said, explaining how he tried to preserve an authenticity behind the fancy by working up stories from incidents that really happened. Nevertheless, the lasting appeal of the books to children (if not always to their parents, who sometimes had to labour through some rather lacklustre prose) was the characterisation of the engines, with their near human traits: the lordly Gordon (the Express Engine) being baited by the irrepressibly cheeky Thomas, or the foolish female carriages. Awdry was unmoved by charges of racial or sexual stereotyping. Attempts to find political satire in the treatment of the Fat Controller have not always been successful.

In 1958 and 1961, Awdry diverged from his accustomed tracks by writing two stories about a Volkswagen car: *Belinda the Beetle* and *Belinda Beats the Band*. Despite slightly corny plots, these were more racily told than some of the railway series and came to be reprinted as part of the continuing promotion of Awdry's work. He was delighted — and slightly surprised — at the pleasure which his books had brought to so many children (now as far away as Japan) and he gave much encouragement to his son Christopher to build upon the tradition that he had established.



Awdry, who was actively involved in steam railway preservation, also edited or collaborated on books on *The Industrial Archaeology of Gloucestershire* (1973), *The Birmingham and Gloucester Railway* (1987) and an enthusiastic *Guide to the Steam Railways of Great Britain* (1979), which celebrated the work of the railway preservation societies. The insistence upon accuracy demonstrated in these books, combined with his possessiveness towards his popular creations, led him to be critical of the television exploitation of his work.

But his own high standards were sustained in the books by his son which continued the series, and Awdry was gratified in 1994 to find himself making an appearance in the series himself as an 0-6-0 Hunslett called Wilbert the Forest Engine. He was appointed OBE last year.

Awdry's wife died in 1989. He is survived by his son and two daughters.

ON THIS DAY

March 22, 1894

A London schoolmaster, though provoked, lost his temper and "inflicted punishment which was altogether unjustifiable". He was fined. The magistrate felt he had behaved in a way that showed that he was unfit to have control of boys.

POLICE.

AT WEST LONDON, yesterday, T.W. DAVENALL, an assistant master at the Hogarth-road Board school, Chiswick, appeared before Mr. Curtis Bennett to answer summonses for having assaulted Arthur Thomas Waller, aged 13, and Sidney George Briggs, aged 15, pupils at the school. Mr. Haynes appeared for the prosecution; Mr. W.J. Bull, representing the National Union of Teachers, defended. The boy Waller said that on the afternoon of the 12th inst. he was in the school, and was in the class of which defendant was teacher—viz., the seventh standard. He was playing with a puzzle under the desk, and was called out to the front of the class. He went out and held out one hand, on which defendant inflicted a blow with a cane. He was told to hold out the other hand, but would not do so. Defendant then caned him on the legs and hip. Witness kicked the defendant, who then thrashed him again, and got him on the ground. Witness got hold of the cane and tried to get it away from him. The cane was broken in the struggle, and when witness got up he threw an inkwell at defendant. The ink splashed all about, but he did not know whether the well had struck the defendant in the face. Defendant did not hit him again that afternoon, but next morning, when he went to school late, defendant called him out of the class, and because he was not so quick as he desired he caught hold of him by the trousers and collar and threw him on the floor. He picked him up again and threw him in the corner. He hurt his hip, and still felt pain. Defendant then sent for a cane and thrashed him on the back, the thigh, the hip, and round the legs. He received about twelve blows, and then went back to his class. Cross examined, he said that he knew the defendant was followd by a number of boys who shouted and hooted after him, but he was not one of the boys who called after him. He was standing looking on when a policeman told him to go home, and struck him across the back with a stick. The lad Briggs said that on the morning of the 13th inst. he was in the class, when the defendant called him out and thrashed him because on the previous Friday he and a number of other lads had run home when they were kept in late. After thrashing him the defendant accused him of being one of the boys who hooted after him on the Monday night. This was not true, and when witness said so the defendant smacked him five times in the face. Several lads were called who supported the statements by these two. Warrant-officer Cousins said that, by the magistrate's directions, he had examined the boys, and found a number of weals on their backs, and Waller's legs especially were very badly bruised. Great violence must have been used to produce such appearances ... Mr. Bull said he should call evidence to show that the punishment was not so severe as had been described. The defendant had authority to punish unruly boys. Waller was a ringleader of unruly lads ... Mr. Curtis Bennett deprecated caning on the hands and boxing the ears, and said they were exceedingly dangerous forms of punishment. Nature provided a special place for boys to be punished upon and it should be used.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling Mature Women.
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BUCHANAN, MAGARET MONA of Check House, Beer Road, Seaton, Devon died on 6 December 1996 particulars to MATTHEW ARNOLD & BALDWIN Solicitors of PO BOX 101, 20 STATION ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS WD1 1HT before 23 May 1997 (Personal Representative(s): John Malcolm Baldwin and Alan John Piper)

BUTLER Felix John of St. John's Home St. Mary's Road Oxford died on 17th February '97 Particulars to Sarjeant & Sheppard Solicitor(s) of 150 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire before 2nd June 1997

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Clasie Barrison of Unit 1 West Wolfson Wing, Heathlands Drive, Prestwich, Manchester, who died on the 31st October 1996 particulars to Flacks Ross Lipworth, solicitors, 25 St John Street, Manchester M3 4DT before 27th June 1997.

Hazel Glass of Cambria 2 Radford Street, Salford M7 4NT Greater Manchester, who died on the 15th September 1996 particulars to Flacks Ross Lipworth, solicitors, 25 St John Street, Manchester M3 4DT before 18th June 1997.

HUGHES, Kenneth Edward, Flat 1 111-113 Warwick Way, London SW1, died 7th November 1996; particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, Solicitors (ref: H136.2.MS.SM) 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF before 26th May 1997.

MARSDEN, ADA MARY, Shouldham Hall Nursing Home, Shouldham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, died 7th January 1997; particulars to Biddle & Co, Solicitors, 1 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7BU, before 30 May 1997.

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ROACH, ERMENA ELMETA of 580 Oxford Road, Reading, Berkshire died on 23 January 1997. Particulars to Sarjeant & Sheppard, Solicitor(s) of 150 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire before 9th June 1997.

THOMSON, DORIS EDITH Woodlands 14 Bishopswood Road London N6 died 8th January 1997; particulars to Biddle & Co Solicitors 1 Gresham Street London EC2V 7BU before 1st June 1997

TIDNAM, GWENDOLINE ELLA of Eastlands, Beech Avenue, Taverham, Norfolk NR8 6HP died on 26 February 1997 particulars to The Executor, Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, Probate Operations, 2nd Floor, Deacon House, 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 3RG before 23 May 1997

WISE, DAISY ELIZABETH of Globe Court, 2 Blackheath Rise, London SE13 died on 13 December 1996 particulars to HEPBURNS Solicitors of BLENHEIM HOUSE, BLENHEIM GROVE, PECKHAM, LONDON SE15 4QX before 23 May 1997

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Sleaze overshadows election

■ John Major was depressed and irritated as new sleaze allegations continued to overshadow the Tory election campaign. The Prime Minister was visibly angry as he dismissed as "junk" claims that he had ignored evidence that Tim Smith, the MP for Beaconsfield, had accepted large undeclared cash payments when he appointed him to the Government in 1994 .... **Pages 1, 10, 11**

Children hurt by suicide bomb

■ Three people were killed and more than 40 wounded when an Islamic suicide bomb ripped through a Tel Aviv coffee shop where children in fancy dress were celebrating the Purim holiday .... **Pages 1, 18**

Tote chairman row

The Tote chairmanship became a casualty of general election fever after Michael Howard and Jack Straw clashed over who should succeed Lord Wyatt .... **Page 1**

Death decision

A brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die, even though her condition falls short of a permanent vegetative state, a judge ruled ..... **Page 2**

Husband faces jail

A jealous husband was facing jail as his wife said she would marry the lodger he shot .... **Page 3**

Penny Lane injunction

Sir Paul McCartney obtained an emergency injunction to stop the lyrics to the song *Penny Lane* being sold at auction .... **Page 5**

Holocaust payment

Victims of the Holocaust should receive gold valued at £39 million as a final payment for Jewish treasures looted by the Nazis .. **Page 6**

Sweeping law

The most sweeping changes in sentencing policy became law with the introduction of automatic minimum sentences for repeat serious violent offenders .... **Page 9**

Bravery award

A British yachtsman who saved a stricken rival in a race is to receive France's most celebrated award for bravery .... **Page 13**

Mobutu chaos

The return of Zaire's President Mobutu collapsed into bizarre chaos at Kinshasa when the military high command were ordered off the tarmac .... **Page 16**

Summit deadlock

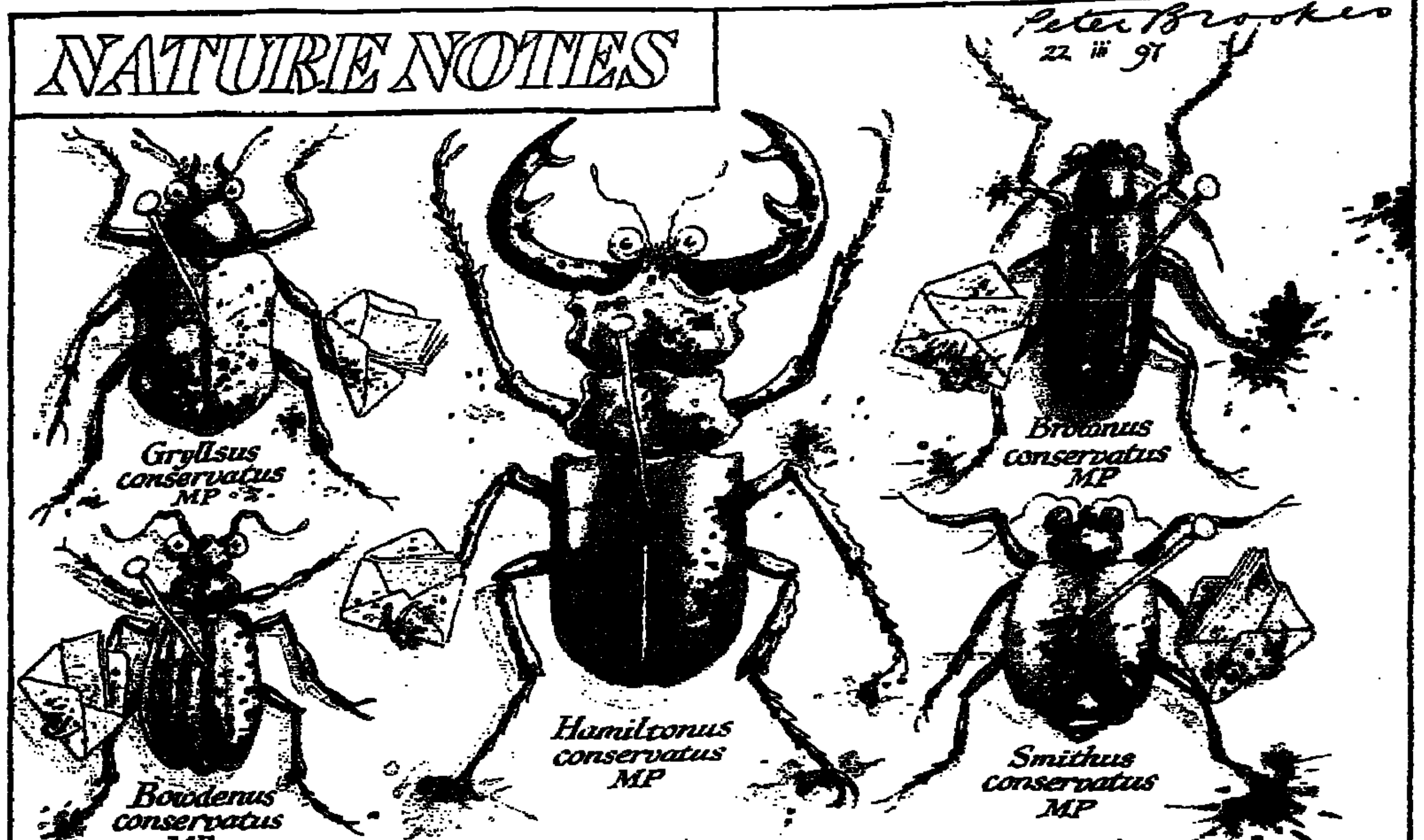
The summit meeting between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin ended in deadlock over European security .... **Pages 20, 21**

Mercenary freed

The British leader of the foreign mercenaries in Papua New Guinea is likely to be freed ...... **Page 17**

Musician played with fire

■ A teenage double bass player caused "more harm than the KGB" when he hacked into American defence and missile systems from his London bedroom. Richard Pryce managed to obtain the passwords to download the computer records of the US Air Force and Lockheed defence computers .... **Page 1**



Dung Beetles (family *Dungus bungus*)

OPINION

Major's way out: The nation can only make a considered decision after a proper debate but the electorate cannot have confidence there will be a proper debate unless the Prime Minister takes them into his confidence ... **Page 25**

Bloody Friday: Binyamin Netanyahu's strongest weapon remains his power to gain Israel's advantage from the process that Israel's enemies want to die .... **Page 25**

LETTERS

Granting of bail; Greater London Authority..... **Page 25**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: We should be in no doubt on whose behalf an MP speaks — and who pays for his suit **Page 24**

Dick Morris: Clinton's former spin-doctor advises the Tories to abandon the strategy that defeated Dole .... **Page 24**

Derwent May: Longs for the sound of silence — away from the voices of sheer torture on radio .... **Page 24**

OBITUARIES

Sir Victor Pritchett, short story writer and novelist: **The Rev W. Awdry**, of Thomas the Tank Engine....... **Page 27**

BUSINESS

Anite inquiry: The Stock Exchange is believed to have reopened its inquiries into Anite Group .... **Page 29**

Irish move: Tesco plans to invest £100 million over the next three years in the Irish supermarkets that it agreed to buy from Associated British Foods for £630 million **Page 29**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 3.3 to 4,254.8. On the foreign exchange the pound rose .98 cents to $1.6038 and 1.11 pfennigs to DM2.6997. The sterling index rose to 96.7 from 96.3 .... **Page 32**

SPORT

Football: Liverpool have been drawn against Paris Saint-Germain in the semi-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup .... **Page 56**

Golf: Lee Westwood broke the course record with a 63 in the first round of the Turespaña Masters on Gran Canaria .... **Page 53**

Racing: Hawksley Hill is fancied to win the Worthington Lincoln, the first Classic of the Flat season........ **Page 51**

CAR 97

How the family Volvo becomes a 160mph racer

ARTS

Richard Morrison does not know what Anthony Payne's completion of Elgar's Third Symphony will be like but his claim that it will be "pure Elgar" is pure piffle........ **Page 23**

Victorian values: The Peter Hall Company has revived *Cloud Nine*, Caryl Churchill's play about sexual ambiguity ...... **Page 23**

Cook's tour: To coincide with the arrival of the replica *Endeavour* the National Maritime Museum is displaying paintings, and ship's items... **Page 22**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Hammersmith girl: New home for the toast of Hollywood .... **Page 8**
Counter culture: Cures in the high street..... **Page 14**

Weekend

Life coach: Personal growth therapy 1, 2

Property: Lofts; gazumping; land quality 8-11
Travel: Amazon; Iceland; Turkey; Ulster 17-23

10 15

Romeo: On the streets of modern Florida ..... **Page 6**
Jaws: An even more scary re-issue .... **Page 8**

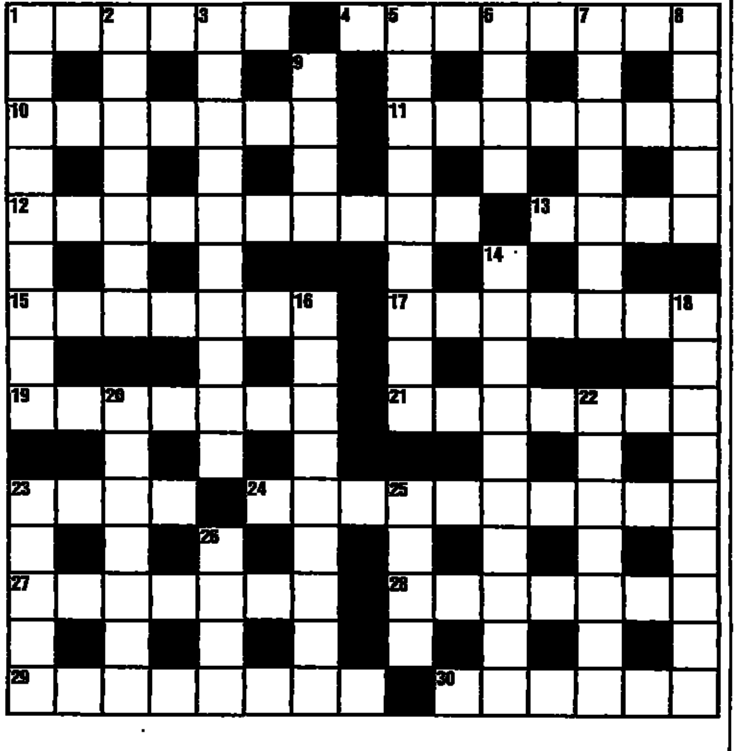
directory

New chapter: The upheaval in publishing 4-5
Heaven on a plate: From Lancashire 7
TV and radio listings

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,434

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....



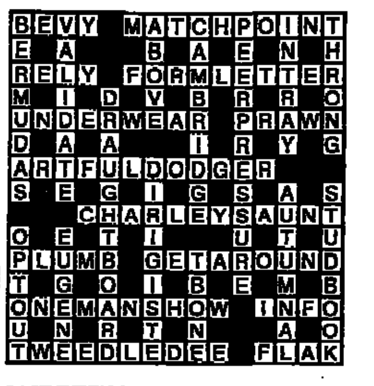
ACROSS

1 Hurled plate cut short debate (6).
4 Mighty hit one gathers in the field (8).
10 Grounded bird not much of a meal for old tribesman (7).
11 Small group of performers allowed eight lines (7).
12 Hamlet's ancestor sleeping in, churchyard – he was rude (10).
13 Small, like end of fork? (4).
15 Suffer ruin, broken by amount of work (7).
17 Suspected hamstring could go in race (7).
19 A drop of French perfume (7).
21 Examine sound cloth (7).
23 Dull bit of scenery (4).
24 Waste for auditors to halt part of board meeting (6,4).
27 Disparage every little devil to start with (7).
28 See fruit mature – it covers the down (7).
29 Get it off with rag, possibly? (8).
30 Standing figures with no end of elegance (6).

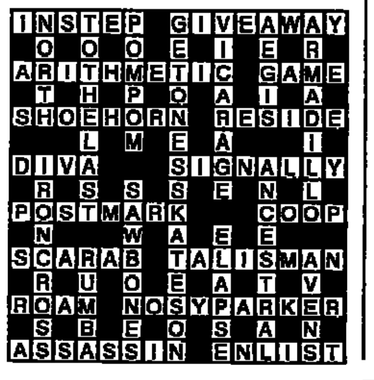
DOWN

1 Silent and observed to stagger (9).
2 Marked second, one short of being approved (7).
3 Loveless coupling made in the dark (10).
5 Real trouble hit Canute (9).
6 Forced to listen to this servant (4).
7 Financial success? That's funny (7).
8 One messing about in boats, bad-tempered (5).
9 Proper answer (4).
14 Sit around to make appropriate cover for office worker (6,4).
16 Unpopular, popular? Tell us quickly! (3,4,2).
18 News agency holding column once to be offensive (9).
20 Picked up, is about to complain to a noted police chief (7).
22 Gardener finding insect under stone (7).
23 Throw a dance (5).
25 Expected to comprehend coin trick (4).
26 New Jumbo has some lexical finesse (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,428



Solution to Puzzle No 20,433



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D Finch, Lye, nr Stourbridge, West Midlands; P Bealby, Stockton-on-Tees; A McConnell, Penrith, Cumbria; H Fox, Yvette, France; M D Friedli, Romsey, Hampshire.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.59 am	6.17 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
5.16 am	4.43 pm

Full moon March 24

London 6.17 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 6.27 pm to 6.06 am
Edinburgh 6.31 pm to 6.07 am
Manchester 6.26 pm to 6.04 am
Penzance 6.38 pm to 6.19 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.57 am	6.19 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
5.40 am	5.46 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 6.19 pm to 5.54 am
Bristol 6.29 pm to 6.04 am
Edinburgh 6.33 pm to 6.05 am
Manchester 6.28 pm to 6.02 am
Penzance 6.40 pm to 6.16 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.50	6.7	13.13	6.9
Aberdeen	00.29	3.8	12.37	4.0
Avonmouth	08.14	12.3	18.37	12.5
Belfast	10.06	3.3	22.35	3.1
Cardiff	06.00	11.4	18.23	11.6
Devonport	04.44	5.2	17.06	5.1
Dover	10.17	6.1	22.30	6.3
Dublin (N Wall)	10.53	3.9	23.07	3.7
Falmouth	04.15	5.0	16.37	4.9
Greenock	11.38	3.1		
Harwich	11.08	3.6	23.20	3.6
Holyhead	09.33	5.2	21.52	5.2
Hull (Albert D)	05.32	7.9	17.40	8.2
Ilfracombe	05.05	8.4	17.25	8.5
King's Lynn	05.39	5.9	17.41	6.2
Leith	01.46	5.0	14.05	5.1
Liverpool	10.24	8.8	22.42	8.8
Lowestoft	09.02	2.3	20.47	2.4
Margate	11.27	4.3	23.30	4.4
Milford Haven	05.19	6.3	17.38	6.4
Newquay	04.12	6.4	16.30	6.4
Oban	04.53	3.6	17.20	3.7
Penzance	03.43	5.1	16.02	5.1
Portland	05.45	1.6	18.15	1.6
Portsmouth	10.23	4.2	22.46	4.4
Shoreham	10.25	5.7	22.46	5.9
Southampton	09.57	4.2	22.16	4.3
Swansea	05.24	8.9	17.43	9.0
Tees	02.45	4.8	14.57	5.0
Walton-on-N	11.00	3.8	23.12	3.8

All times GMT. Hights in metres.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: South Uist, Outer Hebrides, 0.28in; highest sunshine: Folkestone, Kent, 10.7hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be mainly dry with sunny periods, but northern areas will become increasingly cloudy and there may be some patchy rain during the afternoon and evening. Temperatures should be a little above average generally.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy. Outbreaks of rain likely in west at first, but more wet and windy weather is expected in most areas by afternoon and evening. Temperatures near seasonal average.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, W & E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, SW England:** sunny spells. Wind light, southerly, becoming fresh, south or southwesterly. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N England, NE England:** dry at first but becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain later. Wind south or southwest, moderate, becoming fresh to strong. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, N Ireland:** rather cloudy, patchy drizzle or light rain at first; more general rain later. Wind southerly, fresh, becoming strong. Max 8-10C (46-50F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** bright at first, but cloudier with rain later. Wind moderate, southerly, becoming fresh to strong. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Shetland:** rain clearing, but more rain later. Wind moderate, southwesterly, becoming fresh, southerly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain at times, but also some brighter spells. Temperatures mostly above average.

AROUND BRITAIN

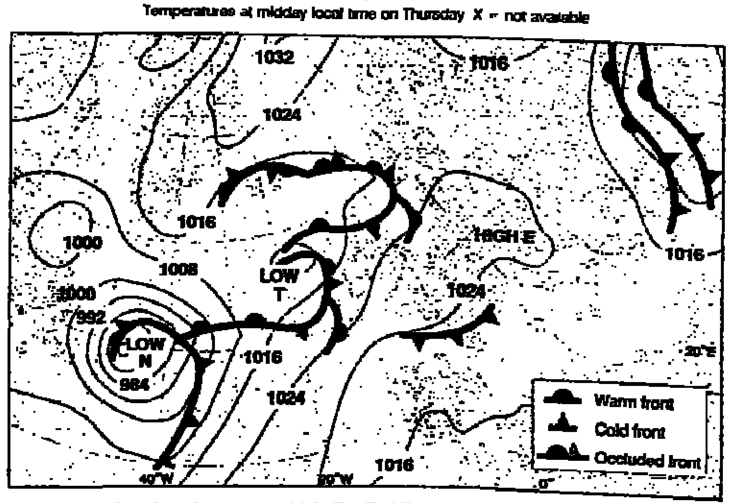
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					Leuchars	7.0	-	9	48	s
Anglesey	8.2	-	12	54	s	Littlehmptn	10.1	-	12	54	s
Aspatria	3.3	-	9	48	b	London	8.8	0.01	12	54	s
Aviemore	6.4	0.01	9	48	r	Lowestoft	6.3	0.01	9	48	s
Belfast	5.7	-	11	52	s	Manchester	3.0	-	10	50	b
Birmingham	6.8	0.01	12	54	s	Margate	10.2	0.01	9	48	s
Bognor R	10.5	-	13	55	s	Minehead	6.1	-	12	54	s
Bournem'th	9.3	-	12	54	s	Mmmm					
Bristol	7.0	-	14	57	s	Morecambe	7.7	-	10	50	s
Buxton	1.2	-	7	45	b	Newcastle	7.3	-	8	46	s
Cardiff	8.6	-	11	52	s	Newquay	8.4	-	12	54	s
Clacton	X					Norwich	3.7	0.02	11	52	r
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	X				
Colwyn Bay	8.6	-	9	48	s	Penzance	X	-	14	57	s
Cromer	6.2	0.02	7	45	s	Ross-o-wye	6.9	-	12	54	s
Dunbar	X					Ryde	X				
Eastbourne	8.9	-	11	52	s	Salcombe	5.5	-	13	55	s
Edinburgh	3.9	-	10	50	b	Sandown	9.9	-	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	1.8	-	7	45	c	Sauntn Snd	6.7	-	13	55	s
Exmouth	7.0	-	11	52	s	Scarboro'	6.4	-	7	45	sh
Falmouth	9.6	-	12	54	s	Shanklin	10.4	-	11	52	s
Fishguard	X					Shrewsbury	4.6	0.01	11	52	s
Folkestone	10.7	0.01	11	52	s	Skegness	7.6	0.01	8	46	s
Glasgow	1.3	-	11	52	c	Southend	X				
Guernsey	X					Southport	6.5	-	10	50	s
Hastings	8.9	-	12	54	s	Southsea	9.9	-	11	52	s
Hayling I.	9.4	-	11	52	s	Stornoway	0.5	0.14	6	43	sl
Herne Bay	7.8	0.01	9	48	s	Swanage	9.9	-	10	50	s
Hove	8.7	-	13	55	s	Teignmouth	6.2	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	X	-	8	46	s	Tenby	8.7	-	11	52	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	0.6	0.05	8	46	r
Isle of Man	1.4	-	8	46	b	Torquay	8.3	-	12	54	s
Jersey	8.1	-	14	57	s	Tynemouth	-	-	7	45	s
Kinloss	6.3	0.01	11	52	r	Ventnor	10.4	-	13	55	s
Leeds	6.8	0.01	10	50	s	West-s-mare	7.3	-	13	55	s
Lerwick	8.2	0.01	5	41	s	Weymouth	6.2	-	12	54	b

ABROAD

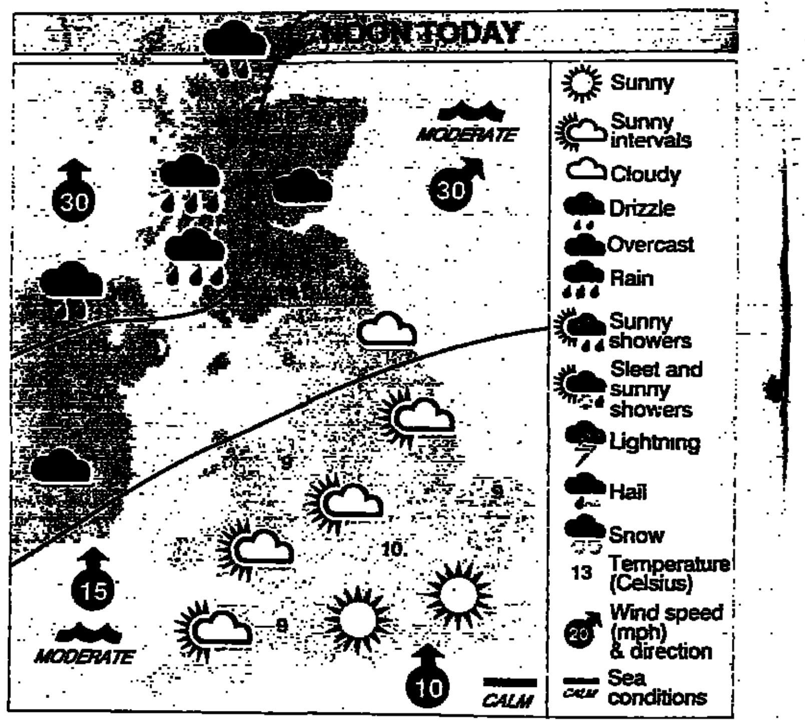
Ajaccio	16	61	s	Corfu	14	57	c	Malaga	27	81	s	S Paulo	25	77	c
Akrotiri	14	57	f	C'phagn	3	37	f	Malta	16	61	f	Salzburg	3	37	r
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dublin	11	52	c	Melb'rne	19	66	c	Santiago	24	75	f
Algiers	19	66	f	Faro	20	68	s	Mexico C	14	57	f	Seoul	16	61	s
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Florence	18	64	s	Miami	27	81	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Athens	16	61	c	Frankfurt	4	39	r	Milan	20	68	s	St'kholm	-1	30	sn
B Aires	29	84	s	Funchal	20	68	s	Montreal	0	32	s	Strasb'rg	5	41	c
Bahrain	24	75	s	Geneva	9	48	f	Moscow	-2	28	c	Sydney	23	73	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	2	36	sn	Tangier	21	70	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	-3	27	s	N York	4	39	r	Tel Aviv	17	63	s
Barcelona	16	61	s	Hong K	16	61	f	Nairobi	28	82	f	Tenerife	23	73	s
Beirut	13	55	s	Innsbrck	6	43	c	Naples	16	61	c	Tokyo	13	55	s
Belgrade	4	39	c	Istanbul	14	57	f	Nice	17	63	s	Toronto	1	34	c
Berlin	1	34	f	Jeddah	29	84	s	Oslo	1	34	s	Tunis	18	64	f
Bermuda	22	72	f	Jo'burg	19	66	f	Paris	11	52	c	Valencia	18	64	s
Biarritz	14	57	f	L Angels	26	79	s	Peking	13	55	s	Vanc'ver	8	46	f
Borde'x	14	57	c	L Palmas	23	73	s	Perth	28	82	s	Venice	X		
Brussels	6	43	c	Le Tquet	9	48	f	Prague	-1	30	c	Vienna	2	36	sn
Budapst	4	39	c	Lisbon	22	72	s	Reykjavik	1	34	s	Warsaw	0	32	sn
Cairo	23	73	c	Locarno	19	66	s	Rhodes	14	57	c	Wash'ton	9	48	f
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Luxembg	3	37	c	Rio de J	28	82	f	Wel'ngton	19	66	X
Ch'church	19	66	X	Luxor	28	82	s	Riyadh	25	77	s	Zurich	5	41	c
Chicago	11	52	s	Madrid	18	64	s	Rome	17	63	f				
Cologne	4	39	c	Majorca	18	64	f	S Fr'isco	14	57	f				

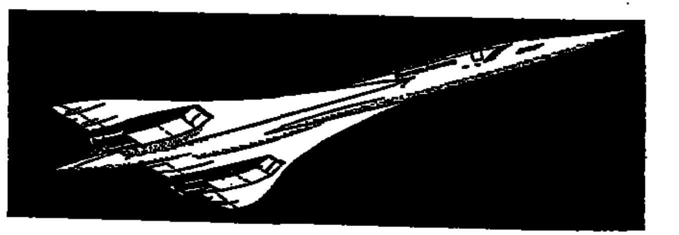
Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: high E will drift slowly southeast into southern Italy; meanwhile low T will move swiftly east across northern Scotland with similar pressure; low N will move quickly east towards Ireland and fill

NOON TODAY





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BA 747 to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August, and 6 September ● five nights at Sheraton ● Niagara with helicopter ● harbour cruise ● city tour ● theatre ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,999

Concorde supersonic between Heathrow and New York ● four nights at the Sheraton ● tours by coach, yacht and helicopter ● depart on 25 June or 18 July £1,999

BA 747 to New York on any day ● four nights at Hilton (inc. Sat.) ● Concorde to Heathrow £2,499, or £1,399 with Club Class return, or £1,899 First Class

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Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May ● five night Oriana cruise to Monte-Carlo via Gibraltar ● tour Riviera ● Concorde supersonic from Nice to Heathrow £1,699

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June ● three night Oriana cruise to Norwegian Fjords ● jet return £999

Fly to Norway on 11 June ● eight night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Fjords and Spitsbergen ● Concorde supersonic return £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August ● six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha and Casablanca ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,799

QE2 & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 18 June ● five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Lisbon and Tangier ● city tour ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow from £1,599

Orient-Express to Southampton on 13 July ● eleven night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Iceland ● Concorde return £2,999

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the daughter, 44, left for hospital treatment. *(AP)*

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SATURDAY MARCH 22 1997

Tesco pays £630m for ABF's Irish business

By Sarah Cunningham

TESCO plans to invest £100 million over the next three years in the Irish supermarkets that it agreed to buy yesterday from Associated British Foods for £630 million. ABF will also receive a £10 million dividend.

The money will be spent on refits, extensions and new stores. Tesco has no intention of renaming the Irish stores and is not planning redundancies. Its Clubcard scheme will be introduced to Ireland within a year. Tesco will become market leader in both Northern Ireland and the Republic, which has lately become a magnet for British retailers. Burtons, Boots and Dixons are among those to have recently opened in Dublin, while north of the border, Safeway is believed to be in talks with Wellworths, the supermarket chain.

Under the deal, which needs European Commission approval, Tesco will buy 75 Quinnsworth and Crazy Prices supermarkets in the Republic. In the North it is buying 34 stores made up of Stewarts, Crazy Prices, Superdeal, Westside Stores and Bloomfields. It is not buying ABF's Irish textile and clothing retail businesses, Penney's and Primark, but will acquire Wine Barrel, the off-licence chain, and Lifestyle Sport and Leisure, a chain of 47 sports shops.

The businesses being acquired had sales of £1.24 billion last year and operating profits of about £58 million. Net asset value was about £170 million. Lord McLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of Tesco, said operating margins should rise from 4.7 per cent to 6 per cent in four years.

Although the deal takes ABF's cash pile to about £1.4 billion, Sir Garry Weston, chairman, discounted talk of a bid for Hillsdown Holdings. He did not rule out buying National Starch or Quest, two of the speciality chemicals companies that Unilever has put up for sale, but he said ABF was not currently in negotiations to buy any companies of a substantial size.

Feargal Quinn, an Irish Senate member and chairman of Superquinn, a small supermarket group, said he had put in a last-minute counterbid for the ABF businesses. He said he had not been aware that they were for sale. Superquinn has concentrated on organic growth, but is now seeking acquisitions.

Tempus, page 32

SE to take fresh look at Anite as chief goes

By Paul Durman

THE Stock Exchange is believed to have reopened its inquiries into Anite Group, the data communications company that yesterday parted company with Jon Richards, its chief executive.

It is believed that Mr Richards could receive about £500,000 in settlement of his two-year contract, which was for about £260,000 a year. Alec Daly, chairman, said that the settlement was fair and within the spirit of the Greenbury guidelines on executive pay.

Mr Richards was the focus of a series of reports in *The Times* last month that showed Anite was aware of serious problems in its most important business for several months before a shock profits warning in April 1995.

Both Mr Richards and Mr Daly have insisted that the company still had a realistic hope of meeting its profits targets, although internal documents state that its Cray Communications subsidiary was losing money and in "crisis" by December 1994.

The Stock Exchange dropped its first investigation into the company, which was formerly known as Cray Electronics, last year. Mr Daly has said that the Exchange made only "mild" criticisms of its financial reporting. Yesterday, he would not confirm that the Exchange has reopened its inquiry, saying: "If they have, that's between us and the Stock Exchange. I am not prepared to discuss that."

He said that Mr Richards was leaving because of "an accumulation of events ... your contribution (*The Times*) was not insignificant". He said that Mr Richards felt the concerns about misleading the market would, rightly or wrongly, keep resurfacing.

Mr Richards, still only 39, was part of a management team led by Sir Peter Michael that turned Cray Electronics into a stock market high-flier in the early 1990s. Its shares have never recovered from the 1995 warning, which caused shareholders to lose more than £200 million.

Mr Daly will take over as acting chief executive until a replacement is appointed.

The Times can today reveal fresh documents that show the extent of internal concerns about the performance of Cray Communications in late 1994. Monthly reports prepared in December and January by the group's finance department conclude: "There has to be extreme doubt over the ability of the company to achieve year-end targets."

The report covering the first eight months of Cray's financial year (to December 1994) begins with the statement: "The division traded at a loss of £3.8 million for the eight months. The profit is entirely due to accounting adjustments." An identical statement, though with a lower loss, was made a month earlier. The report refers to cash continuing "to haemorrhage out of the division" and "every single company in the division...struggling on cash."

Last month, Mr Richards told *The Times* that the reports were produced by negative-minded accountants. He said the adjustments comment referred to the treatment of property and other costs.

At the time, Mr Richards and his collegues Roger Holland and Jeff Harrison — respectively, chairman, and finance director — held shares worth around £33 million.

Jon Richards felt the concerns about misleading the market would keep resurfacing

Charter's takeover agreed by Howden

By Fraser Nelson

CHARTER, the railways and welding group, yesterday ended a week of speculation over the future of Howden by announcing an agreed takeover that values the industrial fanmaker at £378 million.

The cash and paper offer values Howden's shares at 128½p apiece — a 54 per cent premium to the price they traded at last week. It comes four days after Howden formally dismissed speculation that it had any bid approach.

Jeffrey Herbert, Charter's chief executive, said the company had been sizing up Howden for months, but took action after the report in *The Times* last Monday.

He said that Charter — which has been looking to make an acquisition since it disposed of its stake in Cape last year — was primarily interested in Howden's industrial fan division. He hinted that it could sell the company's drilling arm, which last October won a contract in China to drill the longest tunnel in the world.

Charter is offering £124.78 in cash and three of its own shares for every 115 Howden shares. Howden's shares rose 36½p to 128p yesterday — just below the bid offer. Charter's shares rose 60p to 847½p.

WEEKEND
MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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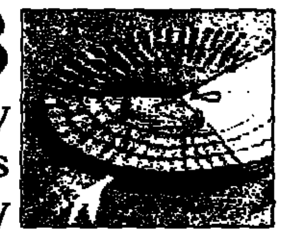

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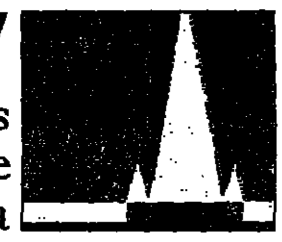

INVESTMENT 2

TRUST WATCH

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Will international trusts survive another century?

British Steel expected to shed another 5,000 jobs

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

BRITISH STEEL yesterday told union leaders of cost-cutting plans that are expected to lead to a further 5,000 jobs being lost.

The new plans are an acceleration of existing cuts that will see the company shed up to 1,000 jobs a year, and are in response to a decline in revenue because of the strength of sterling. Last month, Sir Brian Moffat, chairman, appraised union leaders of the worsening situation for British Steel from the strong pound.

British Steel, which employs 43,000 in the UK, says that cuts will depend on local negotations at the company's main plants. However, unions have braced themselves for cuts equalling the 5,000 jobs cuts already announced as a result of new and changed working practices.

The sweeping cuts being planned by British Steel are likely to affect management as well as shopfloor workers at its main steelworks in Port Talbot, Llanwern Scunthorpe and Teesside.

Unions are not expected to fight the action unless any of the new redundancies, which will also be implemented over a five-year span, are made compulsory. British Steel has refused to rule out compulsory redundancies, although both the main unions involved in yesterday's talks with Alan Johnson, personnel director, emerged hopeful that job losses will be voluntary.

Bob Elsom, chairman of the joint union committee for the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, the GMB general union, and the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, said: "We are concerned about the potential loss of jobs, but, having received assurances from British Steel this morning that any redundancies will be negotiated, we are confident that there will be no compulsory redundancies."

☐ A hundred jobs will be lost at Allied Steel and Wire's Cardiff plant, the company announced yesterday. The jobs are being shed because the company has suffered a fall in demand for its steel reinforcing rods as a result of a slump in the European construction industry.

Moffat: pound pressure

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4254.8	(-3.3)
Yield	3.79%	
FTSE All share	2078.6	(-1.25)
Nikkei	18633.16	(+139.45)
New York:		
Dow Jones	6799.13	(-21.15)*
S&P Composite	785.85	(+3.20)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5 5/16%)
Long Bond	95 13/16*	(95 27/32)
Yield	6.96%*	(6.96%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 9/32%	(6 9/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	109 7/16	(108 15/16)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6017*	(1.5940)
London:		
$	1.6037	(1.5942)
DM	2.6997	(2.6888)
FFr	9.1141	(9.0710)
SFr	2.3287	(2.3051)
Yen	196.35	(196.78)
£ Index	96.7	(96.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6883*	(1.6990)
FFr	5.6890*	(5.7125)
SFr	1.4580*	(1.4535)
Yen	122.85*	(123.73)
$ Index	104.0	(104.4)

Tokyo close Yen 122.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$20.00	($20.10)

GOLD

London close	$352.65	($351.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Ward jailed for two years

By Jon Ashworth

MICHAEL WARD, former chairman and chief executive of European Leisure, has been jailed for two years, after the Court of Appeal ruled that his original sentence was too lenient.

Ward, 49, was given community service in 1995 for his part in an illegal share support scheme, but the decision was challenged by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, backed by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

Now, Ward has been jailed for two years and disqualified from serving as a director for seven. Jeremy Howarth, 51, Ward's "right-hand man", has also received a harsher sentence. Originally given community service, he has been jailed for 20 months and banned from holding a directorship for five years.

European Leisure's former operations director, George Hendry, 65, has been sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years. He was originally given a 12-month conditional discharge. Ward and Howarth were given 48 hours to "arrange matters with their families" before surrendering to custody. They were convicted at Southwark Crown Court in February 1995 at the conclusion of a four-and-a-half-month trial. Both were given 220 hours' community service, and ordered to pay costs and compensation.

Ward returned to court in late 1995 to face two charges of making misleading statements to the SFO. He was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, and released about a year ago. Ward, a former director of international corporate finance at SBC Warburg, created European Leisure in 1987, with a view to building a diverse leisure empire. He pursued an aggressive series of takeovers and mergers, culminating in a contested bid for Midsummer Leisure in 1990. He was essentially accused of mounting a share support operation to prop up the European Leisure share price during the bid, sparking memories of the Guinness affair.

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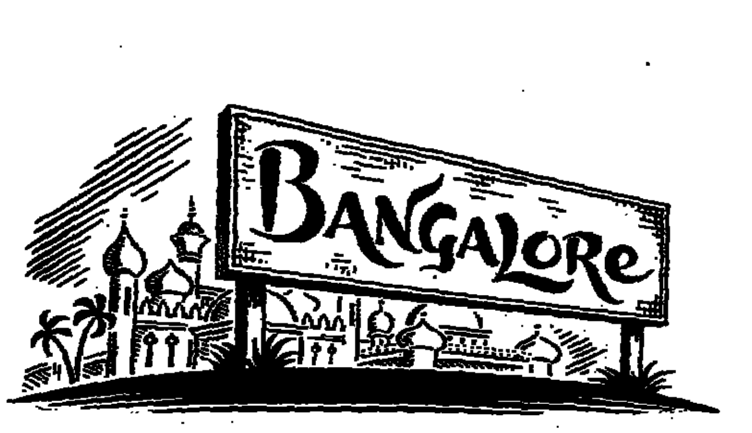

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TT 07

Bid values Phoenix at £15.5m

Co-operation Retirement Benefit Fund, the investment holding company, has launched an agreed bid at 23p a share offer to buy the 22.8 per cent of Phoenix Timber that it does not already own.

No management changes are expected at Phoenix. Capital Partners, which holds a 7 per cent stake in the company, has already accepted the offer, which values Phoenix at £15.5 million.

NAV rises

Speciality Shops, the property company that recently bought Victoria Place shopping centre in London, yesterday announced a 9.7 per cent increase in its pro forma net asset value to 147p per share.

Pre-tax profits fell 13.3 per cent last year to £786,000 and turnover fell 37.3 per cent to £5.2 million. The total dividend has been increased to 2.5p from 2.4p, with a 1.7p final.

Payout higher

Pemberstone, the property management and investment company, earned pre-tax profits of £2.1 million in 1996, up from £373,000 posted in abbreviated accounts for 1995. Turnover was £9.4 million (£1.4 million). The rise included the £413,000 sale of a stake in a subsidiary. A final dividend of 2p lifts the total to 3p from 0.96p.

TC chief departs with £400,000 settlement

By Carl Mortished

TC GROUP, the nursing homes operator, has lost its managing director and suffered a fall in underlying pretax profits from £22.1 million to £18.5 million in the year to December. The company is changing its name and the branding of its services to Care First and yesterday indicated that it would ask shareholders for powers to buy in 5 per cent of its share capital.

Hamilton Anstead, a main board director, is leaving the company with compensation totalling £400,000 based on his two-year service contract. The company said the £250,000 *annual cost of TC's* managing director would be redeployed at the operating level with two regional managing directors. Chai Patel, chief executive, said: "We need more delegated authority, more resources at the coalface."

TC Group, which came together from the merger last year of Takare and Court Cavendish, continues to suffer from the contraction of local authority spending on long-term care. Occupancy levels in TC's established homes fell from 94 per cent in 1995 to 91 per cent at the end of December and declined a further 3 per cent over the past three months. TC Group blamed a third of the recent decline on a *sharp increase in mortality* rates. The overall occupancy level in TC Group's homes, including new homes is 83 per cent, compared with an industry average of 84 per cent.

Anstead: two-year contract

TC Group is raising the dividend by a third to 3.45p a share, payable from earnings before exceptional items of 8.8p (14.3p). The company spent £1.5 million on the merger last year and the tax charge is increased to £21 million, including an exceptional £15.2 million deferred tax charge following the curtailment of the building programme.

Keith Bradshaw, chairman, said the group's priority was to fill beds after the group's decision last year to end its building programme. "We have no expectation that local government spending will increase, regardless of the outcome of the election," he said. In the longer term, the company hopes to expand through the purchase of specialist *nursing businesses* and by moving into home care.

Tempus, page 32

Airbus and Boeing in fight for £500m order

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

AIRBUS and Boeing are locked in battle over a £500 million order for 20 new jets for British Midland Airways.

A decision on whether to buy the Boeing 737-800, the Boeing 757 or the new Airbus A321 will be taken by British *Midland* at the end of this month. Both companies have made their final bids and technical presentations.

Delivery will be spread over five years, enabling BMA to replace much of its fleet of 737-300 and 400s, to provide more seats on popular routes and to open new services.

The existing BMA jets can carry an average of only 156 passengers while the new aircraft have between 189 and 200 seats giving much more *efficient use of scarce airport* take-off and landing slots. BMA is about to open new services to Copenhagen, Gothenburg and Oslo and expects soon to increase the number of flights to Spain and Germany.

Frost forecasts growth after petrol price war

By Carl Mortished

JAMES FROST, chairman of Frost Group, owner of the Save petrol chain, predicted overall growth in the petrol market and an increase in margins after a year in which his company lost 40 per cent of its volumes and 600 sites.

Resisting Esso's Pricewatch campaign left Frost Group with a 31 per cent fall in pretax profit before exceptional items to £10.4 million. Mr Frost said: "The effect of our strategy was to reduce gallons sold but maintain gross margin." The price war had reduced competition at a time of growth in petrol sales, with growth per site of 15 per cent for the whole industry.

Mr Frost will spend less time with the company after *the appointment of Dean* Overton as managing director. The company is to change its name to Save Group. The dividend rises from 7p to 7.1p.

Tempus, page 32

Sentence cut for Arrows fraudster

By Jon Ashworth

MUHAMMED NAVIEDE, the financier jailed for fraud over the £100 million collapse of the Arrows trade loans company, has had his nine-year sentence reduced to six years by the Court of Appeal.

The ruling means Naviede, 43, will be eligible for release on parole in about 16 months. He was jailed at the Old Bailey in July 1995 for fraudulent trading, making false statements, and obtaining property and services by deception. He was banned from serving as a director for 12 years.

Arrows collapsed in 1991, owing more than £100 *million* to 20 banks. Lord Justice Hutchison, Mr Justice McKinnon and Mr Justice Newman quashed two of Naviede's convictions — on charges of obtaining property by deception — but substituted convictions of obtaining services by deception.

The decision follows a *House of Lords ruling* in another case that the offence of obtaining property by deception under the 1968 Theft Act did not apply to transactions in which no actual property changed hands — for instance, payments by cheque or by electronic credit transfer from one bank account to another.

☐ The jury in the trial of *Abbas Gokal, former head of* the Gulf Group, retired to consider its verdict at the conclusion of a six-month trial. The jury was sent home for the weekend. Deliberations resume on Monday.

Banks aim to lift standards

THE British Bankers' Association will announce a new *code of practice today in a bid* to raise consumer service standards. The code, which will regulate all leading banks and building societies, aims to help customers to find better deals.

After the code's implementation on July 1, holders of obsolete savings accounts that offer uncompetitive rates will be informed of alternatives at least once a year. Customers will also be told when current account rates change.

Wace cuts payout as charges lead to loss

WACE, the *troubled* printing services company, cut its dividend yesterday as it reported a slump into the red, as annual trading profits fell 50 per cent to £11.9 million, which it blamed on an expensive move away from traditional printing to a computerised media service. With exceptional charges of £13.9 *million*, Wace *was left with a pre-tax* loss of £2 million.

The company will pay a final dividend of 1.15p on June 6. This cuts the total payout from 5.85p to 3p a share. Earnings per share were 8.4p, down 43 per cent from 14.7p. Trevor Grice, chief executive, said he expected an improvement in the European *businesses this year*, but more time would be needed to improve its American operations.

Cliveden rights issue

CLIVEDEN, the hotel group, wants to raise £8 million in a rights issue to fund expansion. It is aiming to develop its townhouse hotel in London and to open a sports club at the Cliveden estate in Berkshire. Cliveden is offering one new *share for every three existing* shares at 75p. Full-year pre-tax profit rose 56 per cent to £1.7 million last year. Turnover rose a third to £8.5 million. Earnings grew 21 per cent to 5.86p a share. The final dividend is 1.7p, payable on April 28.

Limelight cuts 100 jobs

MORE than 100 jobs are likely to go at Limelight, the troubled kitchens group, after a sharp fall in trading in the past three months. Steve Cotter, chief executive, said the group wants to *cut costs by up to £2.8* million a year. The company, which floated in November, said pro-forma pre-tax profit in the year to December 31 was £2.84 million, against a loss of £1 million a year earlier. There is no dividend. It confirmed that group sales in the first three months of this year are down 11 per cent.

Fortnum's festive cheer

FORTNUM & MASON, the upmarket retailer and branded food company, yesterday said that strong pre-Christmas *sales led to a 7 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits*, from £2.32 million to £2.48 million. Earnings were unchanged, at 17.4p a share, and the interim dividend is held at 4.3p, payable June 30. The company said that second-half profits would be affected by building work to extend the company's flagship Piccadilly store.

CPL Aromas shares fall

SHARES in CPL Aromas, the flavours and aromatic ingredients company, lost more than a third of their value yesterday after the company said that the strong pound and weakness in its ingredients business would see profits for the year to March 31 will be below market expectations. The shares, which peaked at over 500p a year ago, fell from 190p to 120p. *CPL said turnover will be at least £2.5 million lower than last* year's £28.7 million, when pre-tax profit was £2.9 million.

Rotork advances 15%

ROTORK, the international engineering group, achieved a 15.1 per cent rise in *pre-tax* profits to £17.7 million last year, reflecting strong worldwide sales. The company, which has operations in Britain, America, Singapore and France, lifted turnover 13.5 per cent to £90.8 million. Basic earnings per share were 7.2 per cent higher at 11.91p. A dividend of 8p, up 48 per cent from last year's 5.4p, will be paid on May 23.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	19.87	18.37
Belgium Fr	58.29	53.99
Canada $	2.301	2.141
Cyprus Cyp£	0.837	0.782
Denmark Kr	10.80	10.00
Finland Mkk	8.54	7.89
France Fr	9.45	8.80
Germany Dm	2.84	2.63
Greece Dr	441	415
Hong Kong $	12.98	11.98
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Shk	5.65	5.00
Italy Lira	2841	2641
Japan Yen	210.30	194.30
Malta	0.648	0.593
Netherlds Gld	3.170	2.940
New Zealand $	2.45	2.23
Norway Kr	11.28	10.48
Portugal Esc	281.00	262.50
S Africa Rd	7.84	6.84
Spain Pta	238.50	221.50
Sweden Kr	13.01	12.01
Switzerland Fr	2.43	2.25
Turkey Lira	208000	194000
USA $	1.691	1.581

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROGER LUARD

From oil to media mogul in one slick move

Eric Reguly meets a skilled dealmaker who turned Flextech from a nondescript services company into fast-growing TV programmer

WHO IS this guy? And where did he come from? In the 1980s, Roger David Eckford Luard was a struggling businessman trying to eke out a living in industries that were marginally less exciting than watching fungus grow on the side of trees. There was a fuel additives business, a central heating and boilers business and others that make him wince, including one that specialised in making the linings for men's suits.

Today, after one of the more remarkable corporate transformations, Luard, 47, is the chief executive of Flextech, a former oil services company that has become Britain's fastest-growing media group. After BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, it is the country's largest supplier of satellite and cable programming.

Earlier this week, Flextech formed a programming joint venture with the BBC that is designed to launch the institution into the commercial arena. The deal, potentially worth more than $1 billion to Flextech over the life of the joint venture, has earned Luard the begrudging envy of the traditional TV companies, which largely ignored the subscription-TV market. Carlton, Granada and their rivals are only now waking up to its potential and are scrambling to enter the race.

Luard is somewhat astonished by the achievement, not only because of its size but because it has given him the sort of stability and status that he thought impossible only a few years ago. A hustler and dealmaker by nature and training, he is not quite used to knowing where his next pay cheque is coming from. "When I first got into business, I would hawk my wife, my dog, my car — anything — to get going," he said. "This is the first time I have not been gambling everything I own to make it."

> ❛ The BBC joint venture was the mother of all TV deals . . ❜

Luard had spent most of his career in shabby offices, negotiating deals from coffee-stained desks and trying to keep sceptical bankers at bay. He now operates from a swish building in Great Portland Street in central London.

It has pretty receptionists, glass elevators and meeting rooms with power curtains and dividers. Luard can look out of place. One morning in late February, his eyes bloodshot from endless meetings with the BBC, he arrived in casual trousers and a sweater, leaving the impression that he had not quite made the transition to the world of limos and Hugo Boss suits.

While he may not be as slick as your typical media boss, Luard relishes his role as the TV industry's best-known upstart. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious and have allowed him to penetrate TV's tight-knit social circles with ease. Kelvin MacKenzie, the man behind Live TV's topless darts, and David Montgomery, the Mirror Group chief executive, are friends. Jilly Cooper, the author who is Luard's Cotswolds neighbour and the best friend of Roly, Luard's wife, said: "When I first met him, he used to make boilers. When success comes as late as this in life, it is especially sweet. Roger is really enjoying himself."

Luard loves the rumour that he is the model for Rupert, the rake in *Riders*, Cooper's saucy bestseller. He is not, but Cooper said that she has found him useful as a tutor on the behind-the-scenes workings of the TV world.

Luard was born in London, grew up in Surrey and attended Rugby School. The death of his father, who was a chartered surveyor, destroyed any possibility that the young Luard would be able to drift through school — he never attended university — and ease himself into the profession of his choice. "When my Dad died, I had to go out and work," he said. "I always wanted to be an artist, but I ended up becoming an accountant for Price Waterhouse instead."

The 1970s and early 1980s were a blur of oddball jobs. There were stints at an investment firm, a textiles group, the fuel additives company, and the boiler and suit-lining businesses. In 1986 he landed at Flextech, another unglamorous company in a string of unglamorous companies. "We wanted to start a new division to offset the volatility of the oil business," Luard said.

Television, bizarrely enough, was the answer. Flextech's entrée was provided by Peter Orton, a friend who was then head of Henson International, the TV company launched by the late Jim Henson, the genius behind *The Muppet Show*. Orton convinced Luard of the business potential of providing the viewing public with a broad choice of TV channels; at the time, Britain had only four. Together they started HIT Entertainment, a distributor and packager of animation, children's and natural history programming.

Flextech then went on to win some cable franchises and bought 25 per cent of The Children's Channel, now TCC, from British Telecom. In 1992, Flextech ditched its oil services business and went into pure TV mode. "I needed to find a big daddy to help us to keep going," he said. The big daddy turned out to be Adam Singer, head of the international arm of Tele-Communications Inc (TCI), America's biggest cable company and one of its biggest programmers. TCI was looking to make a splash in the British TV market and chose Flextech as its vehicle. Luard said: "When I told people that I had a relationship with TCI, they thought I was talking about a bottle of antiseptic. They had no idea what TCI was."

In 1994 TCI acquired a controlling stake in Flextech through the merger of Flextech with the British broadcasting interests of United Artists, then owned by TCI. United Artists' channels included Bravo, UK Gold and UK Living, which remain among the country's most popular pay-TV channels. The deal instantly made Flextech a force in the emerging "multichannel" market.

Nonetheless, Flextech, losing money and hampered with a bizarre history and strange pedigree, was dismissed as a curiosity. At that time any of the ITV companies could have done programming deals with Flextech. It appears they underestimated TCI's resolve to duplicate its American success in Britain. "I would knock on their doors and nobody would answer," Luard said.

Any notion that Flextech was a bit player ended last September when the BBC revealed it would use TCI to launch subscription channels. The goal was to create a steady stream of commercial income to subsidise the licence-fee revenue, which is barely enough to keep the BBC alive let alone thriving. Among other things, the BBC's increasingly tight finances have prevented it from renewing sport programming rights, including those to Formula One motor racing.

For Flextech it was a coup. The BBC had also been negotiating with the much larger BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, to launch a family of BBC-branded subscription channels in Britain. Luard, of course, cannot take all of the credit. If Flextech did not have TCI at its side, the BBC might have chosen BSkyB as its partner. TCI had the competitive advantage because it could provide the BBC with access to both the American and British markets. The BBC is in talks to form a parallel deal, worth $500 million, with Discovery Communications, TCI's programming affiliate in the US. The negotiations to form the much larger BBC-Discovery joint venture are bogged down in the details; its launch is not expected before the summer. The BBC-Flextech joint venture is already in business. Last month it agreed to sell the broadcast rights to four of the eight channels under development with the BBC to British Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestrial TV consortium formed by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB.

The four include One-TV, described as a "visual Radio 1 for pop music fans", and Horizon, a channel that will draw its programming from the BBC's nature, science and history catalogues. All of the Flextech-BBC channels will be offered to cable and satellite subscribers after their development is completed in the summer.

The BBC joint venture was the mother of all deals for Luard, which begs the question: what next? Luard loves the art of the deal and he is hounded by speculation that, after a good long rest, he will pack his bags and start all over again. He could afford to do so. He has a million share options, the majority of them granted at 92p. If he exercises them at the current market price of about 800p, which is double their level of 1994, he will pocket a tidy £6 million.

But, as Jilly Cooper noted, Luard is enjoying his success and may not be eager to let it all go, especially now that he has a 2½-year-old adopted son, his first child, for the sake of playing the game all over again. "I have an elegant office and a support staff for the first time in my life," he said. "I am really enjoying this and I am committed to building and expanding Flextech."

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Roger Luard, whose success in television has blossomed after an unpromising beginning: "I would knock on doors and nobody would answer"

HIDDEN ASSETS

Architect finds right line for temple of learning

Joanna Pitman taps into the delights of the Cable and Wireless College

Every once in a while a corporate building is commissioned and constructed that deserves to be recognised as a work of art, one of enduring value to the community around it. The Cable and Wireless College, opened in Coventry in September 1993 and designed by MacCormac Jamieson Prichard, is one such rarity.

Conceived as a unique specialist educational centre offering training courses for C&W personnel and for other partner companies within the telecommunications industry, its corporate value is not in doubt. Its architectural value has also been realised; it has already managed to amass more than a mantelpiece's worth of trophies. In 1994, it won Building of the Year from the Royal Fine Art Commission, a silver plaque and bronze plaque award from RIBA. The following year it picked up the Concrete Society Award and the *Financial Times* Architectural Award. And last year it won the national award for soft landscape construction from the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Symonds Award for the best commercial development from the Civic Trust.

The building looks nothing like a corporate educational institution. None of the grim stained concrete blocks from the penitentiary style of college construction. Nor the colourful plastic jollity so often imposed to lighten (but more likely depress) the look of a corporate pre-school. No, the C&W college is a mature building of advanced functional capacity, high design standards and tranquil beauty.

It could from a distance be mistaken for a Japanese Shinto shrine — some admiring students have come to refer to it as their temple of learning. The first thing you notice are the roofs, which slope and curve in an alluring wave, like breakers rolling on to the shore, and which, in a clear reference to East Asian architecture, are clad in blue-jade faience tiles.

The layout is definitely collegiate, with open and covered routes focusing on the central court that has become the hub of the college. The main teaching wings face each other across this courtyard, focused on one central ocular open space around which the main communal facilities are planned. With its pool, its cloister-like structure and its deep projecting eaves, the central space retains a wonderful contemplative feel.

Lecture rooms are in a single-storey teaching block at the front of the site looking south over green belt. All of them can be naturally ventilated and are generously lit with indirect natural light. For flexibility, the dividing walls have removable partitions. There is a library, an exhibition room and residential blocks.

Materials are all of a high quality and well detailed. Outside walls are grit-blasted concrete with some polished concrete blocks coloured green. Interiors are defined by polished hand-textured Italian plaster, tinted — tastefully — in muted green or petrol blue.

The grounds too, landscaped by Colvin and Moggridge, have attracted their fair share of admiration. There is a linear pond and lawns that lead to the leisure pavilion, which is set in a hillock that can be reached by a footbridge. There is also a waterfall.

Corporate comfort has been combined with a high level of design artistry, and those students of telecommunications in residence should delight in the chance to learn in such an attractive environment.

As Samantha Hardingham says in *England, A Guide to Recent Architecture*: "The building as a whole has an ethereal quality, particularly from the outside. It is a modern stately home."

PETER COOK

The college's open central space is cloister-like, a place to stand in contemplation

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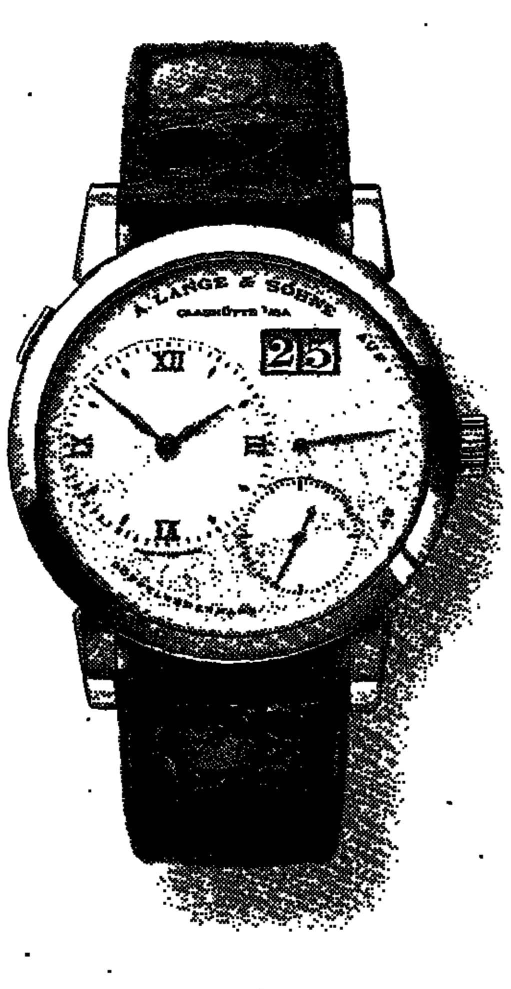

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STOCK MARKET **MICHAEL CLARK**

Charlton's market debut falls short of forecast

James Frost, chairman of Frost Group, upbeat and 1p higher

CHARLTON ATHLETIC, the struggling south London football club, scored an own goal on its stock market debut with the shares trading at a hefty discount. Placed on AIM at 80p, the price touched a low of 56½p before ending the session at 63p, a discount of 17p.

It seems the City love affair with football clubs has started to wane. There are now 14 quoted teams compared with just five a year ago. Most have been hoping to cash in on the boom for televised football and the move, eventually, towards pay-per-view.

The fancy ratings boasted by some are now looking a little over the top and brokers are urging investors to be cautious. The bigger clubs, like **Manchester United**, up 7½p at 644p, and **Tottenham Hotspur**, down ½p at 110p, are seen increasingly as leisure companies earning profits off the pitch, as well as on.

Sunderland, a recent newcomer unchanged at 585p yesterday, has fallen sharply this week after having six goals pushed passed it by Chelsea. It is now struggling to maintain its Premiership position. **Chelsea Village**, which owns the west London side, slipped 1½p to 130p.

Charlton is lying just above the relegation zone in division one. But the offering was fully subscribed, with existing shareholders and supporters snapping up 1.3 million shares at 76p. Institutions claimed the remainder of the offering at 80p, valuing the club at a total of £17 million.

Meanwhile, there was an almost audible sigh of relief among investors in the Square Mile as share prices generally overcame another volatile session to end the week on a steady note.

Supported by a partial recovery in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight, the equity market opened on a firm note with a gain of almost 16 points. It saw the expiry of the March series of the FT-SE 100 index futures and options pass off without too much fuss and soon began to rally again as Wall Street kicked in with some opening gains. But New York's failure to hold on to those gains eventually left the index down 3.3 on the day at 4,254.8. Investors remain worried about the prospect of a rise in interest rates.

The loss on the week was extended to 169.5. Turnover again topped one billion shares, swollen by a large number of bed and breakfast transactions.

Tesco firmed ½p to 339½p after announcing plans to pay Associated British Foods £630 million for its Irish food retailing operation. The deal boosts AB Foods cash reserves to £1.5 billion. It also lifted its share price 14½p to 526p. **Hillsdown**, often mentioned as a possible bid target for AB Foods, rose 4½p to 188½p.

There was a brief suspension in shares of **Howden** and **Charter** before it was confirmed that Charter was making an agreed offer for the engineer. Howden ended the day 36½p higher at 128p, matching the terms from Charter. The deal gives Howden a price tag of £378 million. Charter closed 60p dearer at 847½p.

Yorkshire Electricity stood out with a jump of 17½p at 923½p after the Government gave the go-ahead to the joint £1.5 billion bid from American Electric Power and Public Services Colorado. The deal remains subject to regulatory assurances.

PizzaExpress was playing down takeover speculation as the price surged 57p to yet another high of 767½p. David Page, chief executive, says the company intends to remain independent and laughed off suggestions of a bid from **Grand Metropolitan**, down 4½p at 490p.

Incheape rose 13p to 255½p ahead of figures next week expected to show the benefits of measures taken by the new management.

BAT Industries touched 466½p before rebounding to finish 5p up at 494p after shrugging off the decision of Liggett Group to break ranks with the other tobacco companies and admit that smoking caused cancer and was addictive. **Imperial Tobacco** slipped 2p to 419½p.

Another big line of stock passing through the market left **Flextech** 44p down at 635p, stretching the loss on the week to 137p. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, found a home for a line of 9.32 million shares at 624½p.

Frost Group, the independent petrol retailer headed by James Frost, chairman, firmed 1p to 125p despite reporting a drop in profits from £11.1 million to £10.4 million last year. The group cheered brokers with an upbeat statement on current trading and plans to change its name to Save.

Tyzack Precision fell 6p to 72½p after plunging into the red at the halfway stage with losses of £612,000. But the group remains confident and has a cash surplus of £11 million for acquisitions.

Active Imaging slumped 42p to 46½p after TVX withdrew its offer of $11.35 a share. **CPL Aromas** is the latest company to blame its misfortunes on the strenth of sterling. Shares in the food producer plunged 70p to 120p after a profits warning.

There was steadier performance among the rail franchise operators with **Prism Rail** accelerating 55p to 350p, **GB Railways** rising 23p to 152½p in sympathy, and **Stagecoach** clawing back some of this week's losses with a rise of 7½p at 679p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Losses among bond prices during the past few days were halted as the London market took advantage of firmer European bonds. Investors shrugged off persistent worries about higher interest rates as longer-dated issues posted gains of up to £¼.

The June series of the long gilt finished £¼ better at £109 3/16 in moderate turnover. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on £9/32 to close at £103 1/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 6 per cent 1999 put on £⅛ to finish at £97 15/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Sell-offs in Eastman Kodak and Philip Morris shares kept the Dow Jones industrial average lower in morning trading, though the overall market was higher. By midday the Dow was 21.15 points lower at 6,799.13.

A busy week is in store for biotech companies. The high-flying Shield Diagnostics, up 30p at 650p, is due on Monday to give a presentation for its AFT heart disease test after recent worries over US trials. Scotia Holdings, down 27½p at 380p, also reports, after having seen its price tumble from a peak of 735p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
ICI	702½p	-45½p	Broker cuts profit forecast
Howden	*128p*	*+44½p*	*Charter bids £378 million*
Sunderland	585p	-67½p	Relegation candidate
Lonrho	146p	-11½	Profits warning
Dorling Kindersley	271p	-59p	Casualty of strong pound
Flextech	635p	-137p	Chief executive sells shares
Limelight Group	94½p	-76½p	Sales slump
BT	456p	+16½p	Upbeat presentations
Stagecoach	679p	-53½p	Regulatory worries

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	6799.13 (-21.15)
S&P Composite	787.93 (-2.29)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	18653.10 (-179.45)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	12581.30 (+10.07)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	727.30 (+16.90)

Sydney:

AO	2390.4 (+4.9)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3298.24 (+33.57)

Singapore:

Straits	2068.48 (+26.95)

Brussels:

General	11632.12 (+68.19)

Paris:

CAC-40	2587.13 (+33.41)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	940.30 (+7.80)

London:

FT 30	2822.7 (+0.7)
FT 100	4254.8 (-3.3)
FTSE Mid 250	4565.0 (+2.2)
FTSE 350	2104.4 (-1.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2150.07 (-9.03)
FT All-share	2079.9 (-1.25)
FT Non Financials	2148.76 (-1.47)
FT Fixed Interest	117.56 (+0.17)
FT Govt Secs	95.02 (+0.12)
Bargains	61544
SEAQ Volume	1005.0m
US$	1.6034 (+0.0004)
German Mark	2.6997 (+0.0171)
Exchange Index	96.7 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£ ECU	1.3991
£ SDR	1.1537
RPI	155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aortech	120½	...
Aurora Inv Trust	100	...
Birmingham City	43½	- 2
Cambridge Mini Res	13¾	- ¼
Charlton Athletic	63	...
Core Group	298	- 3
Dobbies Garden	260	...
Donatantonio	71½	...
Energy Group (525)	468½	+ 2
Girovend Csh Sys	188½	...
Howle	31	...
KBC Advncd Techs	244½	- 3
London Bridge Sftw	265½	+ 4
M & G High Capital	9	...
M & G High Income	*68½*	...
M & G High Pckg	102½	+ ½
M & G High Unit	80	...
Psd Group	260½	- 2
Q Group	119½	...
River & Merc 1st UK	99	- ½
Screen	5¼	- ¼
Total Office Grp	152½	...
Usher of Trowbridge	120½	...
VFG	41½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Grantchstr n/p (137)	36½	...
PTS n/p (100)	12½	- 1½
Partco n/p (300)	32½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Tomkins	277½p (+8)
Comm Union	660p (+19p)
AB Food	526p (+14½p)
Safeway	362½p (+9½p)
Stand Chart	840p (+12½p)
RMC Group	976½p (-13p)
Rentokil Intl	408½p (+9½p)

FALLS:

Lloyds TSB	461p (-15½p)
Vodafone Gp	268p (-8p)
Boots	675p (-11½p)
Burmah	982½p (-16p)
Reckitt & Colm	832½p (-12½p)
ICI	702½p (-10½p)
Scotia	380p (-27½p)
Flextech	635p (-44p)
Celltech	580p (-29½p)

Closing Prices Page 49

TEMPUS

Greener pastures

TESCO paid a lot for Associated British Food's Irish supermarkets but the deal will bring more benefit to Tesco shareholders than to investors in ABF.

ABF's cash pile will rise to almost £1.5 billion. Garry Weston, ABF's chairman, shrugs off mutterings about low returns, so there is every chance he will bank the cash for that rainy day. Speculation about a bid for Hillsdown is wide of the mark; ABF's business is not packaged foods but raw materials and its focus is overseas rather than the domestic.

More likely to interest ABF is the Unilever specialty chemicals business, but a deal may depend on whether Unilever is prepared to break it up and offer ABF the starch business. Without an acquisition, the outlook for ABF investors looks dull. The huge family stake seems to rule out the prospect of share buy-ins or special dividends.

Still, the sale of the Irish supermarket chain makes sense for ABF. With Safeway likely to move into the Irish market, competition will intensify and Tesco, a veteran of retail price wars, is better able to fight the market share battle than ABF.

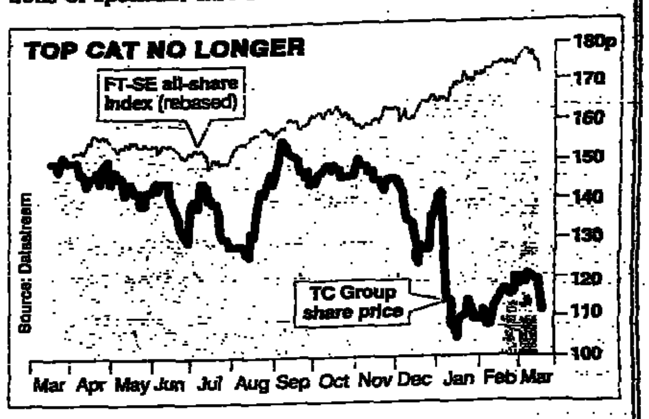
Tesco admits that its last Irish venture (it bought the Three Guys chain in the late seventies) was a shambles. The venture flopped after Tesco foolishly renamed the chain, only to skulk back home. Once bitten, Tesco is keeping the trading names, but it will inject its marketing expertise. Faced with low growth at home, Tesco needs alternatives. Ireland's population is increasing, with GDP rising at twice the rate in Britain. Irish soil could prove fertile.

TC Group

SHRINKING demand, reduced investment and slimmer margins. You can hardly fault TC Group for taking powers to buy back its shares. The residential care market is under the cosh of local authority spending cuts and TC Group shares reflect the market's perception that this is a nil growth business. Valued at 113p, the book value of TC's assets is 143p. Viewed on a per bed basis, the discrepancy is more striking: the market prices the company at £22,000 per bed but it costs TC at least £25,000 to build each bed, never mind the cost of buying the land.

On that basis, TC looks a terrific bargain, but there are still doubts hanging over the company. Occupancy is too low and the company still has more beds coming on to the market as the old building programme is unwound. These will be filled, probably at a faster rate, as competitors cease building and sites are converted into housing.

The worry is whether TC Group has the right strategy. The company is convinced there is growth in this sector and muses about acquisitions of specialist care businesses. However, TC has yet to prove it can safely manage expansion and investors are probably better off with the yield from a tightening supply of care homes. TC will throw off a lot of cash in the coming year or two as construction spending tails off and occupancy increases. In safe hands, this could be an interesting recovery.



Charter/Howden

CHARTER chose its victim well. On the face of it, Howden was a sitting target. A series of deals have put the company on the map as world leader in industrial fans, yet this distinction has never been flattered with profits to match. Despite a strong balance sheet and good order book, Howden's shares languished at a 40 per cent discount to the market average.

Adding to Howden's difficulties were memories of management failures, notorious among them a Scandinavian tunnelling project that left a large hole in Howden's profit and loss account long after the company had changed course.

Charter has not overpaid. The bid price gives Howden investors a huge uplift but Charter is only paying about 15 times forecasts of Howden's earnings to April 1998. The industrial fan division is the prize and the hope is that Charter will sprinkle some magic over Howden's lacklustre margins.

The risk is that margins will be stubborn or that Charter will struggle to sell the high-risk tunnelling business. Nevertheless, Charter has found its third leg and the prize could be a better share rating. Long saddled with the conglomerate tag, Charter should soon graduate to fully fledged engineer.

Frost Group

IF you believe James Frost, his Save petrol retailing chain will coin it this year. The battle of the behemoths has killed off some 1,500 independent retailers, leaving more of the market for the survivors. Frost reckons that Esso is unlikely to continue its Pricewatch campaign at the same level of intensity, having regained market share, and margins could well improve with a lower crude oil price.

Back in Dallas, Esso's bosses will not be amused by the estimated £200 million cost of Pricewatch so the multinational will be under pressure to put the numbers back into the black. Key to this will be Esso's ability to launch a new forecourt promotion. Alone among the majors, it lacks a loyalty gimmick, largely due to the continuing dispute with its dealers over Tiger tokens. Frost should regain most of its lost volume and if margins hold, earnings could rise 25 per cent in the current year, putting the shares on a multiple of less than 8 times earnings.

The risks are clear for all to see. Restructuring will continue but the chances are that the pace will be less frantic and continued attrition of independents will benefit Frost as well as the majors. The wild card is a merger: Frost has sold his business more than once before and if there is a strong recovery he might well be tempted again.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	1011-1008	May	1063 BID
May	1019-1018	Jul	1077-1076
Jul	*1027 BID*	*Sep*	*1088 SLR*
Sep	1035-1034	Dec	1105 SLR
Dec	1034 BID		
Mar	1050-1048		Volume: 3461

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1665-1655	Nov	1636-1625
May	1663-1660	Jan	1616-1605
Jul	1660-1655	Mar	1605-1580
Sep	1652-1650		Volume: 3124

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	301.2-99.9
Spot: 308.8		Mar	302.7-99.9
May	306.0-05.5	May	304.0-97.4
Aug	304.7-04.2	Jul	unq
Oct	301.2-00.5		Volume: 371

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	80.22	145.48	98.80
(+/-)	-5.50	-5.92	-1.87
Eng/Wales:	80.24	148.90	98.25
(+/-)	-5.56	-4.00	-1.83
(%)	+2.0	+1.0	+23.0
Scotland:	77.00	141.39	101.02
(+/-)	+4.65	-5.07	-2.23
(%)	+19.0	+4.0	+33.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.25	-0.35
Brent 15 day (May)	20.00	-0.35
Brent 15 day (Jun)	20.00	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.55	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.40	-0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	213 (+1)	215 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	*175 (-2)*	*176 (-4)*
3.5 Fuel Oil	82 (-4)	84 (-4)
Naphtha	194 (-1)	199 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Apr	171.00 BID	Jul	175.75-76.00
May	172.75-73.00	Aug	177.25-77.25
Jun	174.50-74.75		Vol: 10244

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	20.06-20.07	Aug	19.84-19.87
Jun	20.00-20.02	*Sep*	19.75-19.85
Jul	19.93 SLR		Vol: 32300

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	99.65	Mar	93.50
May	101.75	May	94.00
Jul	104.00	*Sep*	*93.00*
Sep	95.25	Nov	95.00
Nov	97.25	Jan	97.00
Volume: 729		Volume: 9	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	51.0	47.0
May	58.5	54.0
Jun	unq	67.0
		Volume: 88

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Apr 81.00-81.50

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 97	1525	1520	1525
Apr 97	1648	1635	1640
May 97	1607	1600	1605
Jul 97	1350	1340	1340
Vol: 170 lots		Open interest: 3245	

Index 1515 +12

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2421.5-2422.5	3mth: 2370.0-2371.0	Vol: 1170675
Lead ($/tonne)	693.00-694.00	693.00-693.50	195750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1277.0-1278.0	1298.0-1299.0	429175
Tin ($/tonne)	5900.0-5910.0	5950.0-5955.0	17890
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	*1626.0-1626.5*	*1656.0-1657.0*	*1839575*
Nickel ($/tonne)	7870.0-7871.0	7984.0-7985.0	98712

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	420	28½	36½	44½	2½	13½	17½
(*445)	460	5½	15½	25	20	35	38½
ASDA	100	9½	12	14	0½	2	4½
(*108½)	110	3	6½	8	4	6	9
Boots	650	31	45	53½	5	18½	24
(*675)	700	5½	18½	28½	29	44½	50½
Br Airways	600	41½	53	64½	2½	14½	20½
(*637)	650	9½	29½	38½	21	38½	44½
BP	700	17½	40	48½	13½	31	39
(*700½)	750	3	19½	27	50½	61½	68
Br Steel	160	5½	11	12	3½	11	13
(*162½)	180	0	3½	5	18	25½	27
C & W	460	33	46	54½	5½	15½	21½
(*489)	500	9½	25	34	19½	35½	41
CU	650	33½	61	81½	12	37	58½
(*664½)	700	15½	38	59	41	64½	85½
ICI	700	18½	38½	47½	13	24½	35
(*702½)	750	4	17½	25½	48½	54½	64½
Land Sec	750	21½	33½	41½	6½	24	29½
(*762½)	800	2	11	19½	39½	58	61
M & S	460	15	26	34½	7	19	22
(*467)	500	2½	10	17½	34	45	46½
Nat West	650	40	62½	69	5½	17½	26½
(*684½)	700	10½	34½	44½	25½	39	53
Safeway plc	360	12	21	27	7½	19½	24½
(*362½)	390	3½	9½	16	28½	39	43½
Sainsbury	300	30	34½	39	0½	7	9
(*328½)	330	8	16	22	9	20	23
Shell	1050	41	56½	70	18	35	47
(*1081)	1100	13½	33	45½	49	61½	74
Smkl Bch	900	26½	52½	72	21½	43½	54
(*901)	950	8½	32	50	54½	72½	82
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1700	93½	144	187	16½	50½	67
(*1768½)	1800	38½	91½	129	58½	95½	112½
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
BAT Ind	460	40	58	62½	5	14	24½
(*494)	500	17	36½	41	19½	31½	43½
Vodafone	260	11½	23	29	6½	14	18½
(*265½)	280	4	14	20	18	25½	29
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	460	38	48	55	4½	12	15
(*490)	500	13	24	32½	19	29	32½
Ladbroke	220	11½	19	23	5½	9½	12½
(*224½)	240	4	10	13½	17½	20½	23
Utd Bisc	220	16½	22½	26	5½	9	13½
(*236½)	240	5	13	16½	15½	19½	22½

March 21, 1997 Tot: 93013 Call: 44380 Put: 48633 FTSE Call: 16253 Put: 28180
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	16	28½	35½	7	19½	23½
(*506)	550	1	8½	15	44½	51½	54
Thames W	650	20	43	47½	14	43	45
(*656)	700	4	22½	27	47	75	76½
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BTR	260	12	17½	23	9½	13½	16½
(*260)	280	5	10	15	22½	25	28
Br Aero	1300	64	101	123½	29½	46	58½
(*1322½)	1350	39	74	97	54½	70	81½
Br Telcm	420	42	51½	52½	4	13	16
(*456)	460	15½	25½	28½	16	32½	34½
Cadbury	500	43½	57	62½	5½	12	15
(*534½)	550	14½	28½	36	26	32½	37
Guinness	500	18½	30	37	18½	25	27½
(*508½)	550	4½	12	17½	56½	59	60
GEC	360	25	32½	37	5	14	17
(*376½)	390	9	16½	22	19	30½	33
Hanson	280	24½	32	35½	5½	7½	12½
(*298)	300	12½	20	24	12½	15½	21½
LASMO	240	15	22	27	12	17½	16
(*243½)	260	8	13½	18	24	29	27
LucasVarity	180	21	26	29	3½	5	8
(*198)	200	8½	14½	18	11	13	17½
Pilkingtn	130	8½	11	—	5½	11	—
(*131)	140	4½	8½	—	11½	16	—
Prudential	550	20½	37	46	22	31	37½
(*559½)	600	6½	17	25½	57	62½	67½
Redland	360	16	22½	31	20½	27	31
(*361½)	390	5	12	19½	42½	47½	50
R-Royce	220	19½	26½	30½	5½	11½	13½
(*233½)	240	9	16½	20½	15	21½	23½
Tesco	330	17½	25½	31	10	15	19
(*340½)	360	4½	12½	18	29	32½	36
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4259½)

	4150	4200	4250	4300	4350	4400
Calls						
Mar	109½	59½	9½	0	0	0
Apr	128	91	60	38½	19½	9
May	167½	134½	103	77	54½	38
Jun	199	167½	135½	109	85½	64½
Dec	—	283½	—	226	—	174½
Puts						
Mar	0	0	10	60	110	160
Apr	30	44½	64½	91	123½	162
May	61½	78½	98	124	154	188
Jun	83½	101½	119½	143½	171½	199½
Dec	—	167	—	207	—	254½

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	700	29½	55½	67	10½	26	36
(*717)	750	9	31½	43	38	52	62
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1000	42	75	90	12	27½	45
(*1027)	1050	16½	48½	63½	33	50½	69
Natl Pwr	450	31	—	—	3½	—	—
(*477½)	500	4½	23	23	26½	47	53½
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	1050	39½	75½	90	14	32½	51
(*1075)	1100	15½	49	64	36	57	75½
HSBC	1450	45	100	126½	26	63	86½
(*1462½)	1500	22½	74	100½	55½	88	111½
Reuter	600	29½	50½	64½	10½	24	26
(*616)	650	8	27½	40½	37	49½	52
Royal & Sun	431	21½	—	—	4½	—	—
(*446½)	460	6½	20	30	18½	26½	34
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Blue Circ	390	31	38½	44½	8	13½	19
(*416½)	420	12½	22½	29	22½	27½	33
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Kingfishr	650	49	62	71½	9½	19½	25
(*697)	700	16½	33½	44½	33½	41½	48
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**		**Mar**	**Jun**	
Br Gas	220	11	—	—	17½	—	—
(*220)	240	4½	—	—	31½	—	—
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Dixons	500	38	47½	57½	15½	27½	31½
(*516)	550	15	24½	35	43	53	58½
EMI Group	1100	68½	94	106½	33½	55½	65½
(*1122½)	1150	43	68½	81½	57½	80	90½
Tarmac	90	8½	11	12½	3½	4	6½
(*95½)	100	3½	6½	8	9½	10	12½
Hillsdwn	180	12	14½	—	7½	9	—
(*188½)	200	2½	5½	—	21½	22	—
Lonrho	140	12	15½	18½	5½	8	10
(*146)	160	3½	7	10	17	19½	21
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	260	26	30½	33	5	10½	12
(*277½)	280	14	19	22	12½	19½	21½
Lloyds TSB	460	28	37½	47	18	25½	30½
(*464)	500	11	20	29½	41½	48½	52½
Scot Pwr	330	24½	30½	33½	9	15½	18½
(*342)	360	10	15	19	24½	32½	35
Unilever	1600	52½	88½	107½	46	58	68
(*1613½)	1700	17½	47½	61½	115½	121½	128

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 97	109-29	110-00	109-26	109-23	2611
Previous open interest: 202279	Jun 97	109-10	109-17	109-01	109-06	43060
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Jun 97	100.03	100.25	99.85	99.94	131764
Previous open interest: 243819	*Sep 97*	*99.25*	*99.34*	*99.04*	*99.08*	*244*
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Jun 97	125.65	125.94	125.05	125.08	42398
Previous open interest: 105526	Sep 97	125.20	125.20	125.20	125.13	115
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Jun 97	125.45	125.60	125.40	125.46	2108
	Sep 97	124.16	124.16	124.08	124.10	125
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 97	93.34	93.35	93.31	93.32	21066
	Sep 97	93.08	93.08	93.04	93.05	14331
Previous open interest: 422992	Dec 97	92.83	92.86	92.80	92.81	14918
Three Mth Euromark	Jun 97	96.69	96.69	96.67	96.67	25343
Previous open interest: 1177581	Sep 97	96.59	96.60	96.56	96.57	20167
Three Mth Eurolira	Jun 97	92.82	92.91	92.78	92.80	20124
Previous open interest: 249930	Sep 97	93.12	93.20	93.06	93.08	13021
Three Mth Euroyen	Sep 97	99.12	99.12	99.12	99.12	50
	Dec 97	98.95	98.95	98.94	98.94	3127
Three Mth Euroswiss	Jun 97	98.14	98.15	98.10	98.11	6318
Previous open interest: 88667	Sep 97	98.11	98.11	98.05	98.07	4012
Three Mth ECU	Jun 97	95.67	95.68	95.66	95.67	497
Previous open interest: 30710	Sep 97	95.62	95.63	95.61	95.62	445
FTSE 100	Mar 97	4270.0	4276.0	4244.0	4245.5	6839
Previous open interest: 79370	Jun 97	4285.0	4299.0	4263.0	4266.0	17888

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 1/16 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5 15/16
Treasury Bills (Dis): *Buy: 2 mth 5 15/16 ; 3 mth 5 29/32 . Sell: 2 mth 5⅞ ; 3 mth: 5⅞ .*

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6-5 15/16	6 1/16-6	6 3/16-6 1/16	6 7/16-6 5/16	-
Sterling Money Rates:	6 3/32-6 1/16	6 5/32-6 3/32	6 9/32-6 7/32	6 15/32-6⅜	6 25/32-6 23/32
Interbank:	6 3/32-6 1/16	6 5/32-6 3/32	6 9/32-6 3/16	6 15/32-6⅜	6 25/32-6 21/32

Overnight: open 6, close 5 15/16.

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6 3/16	6 7/16	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6 1/32-6 1/32	6⅛-6¼	6¼-6 3/16	6½-6 7/16	6¾-6 21/32
Dollar CDs:	5.54	n/a	5.62	5.77	6.12
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6 3/32	6¼-6 5/32	6⅜-6 5/16	6 17/32-6 15/32	6 25/32-6 23/32

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,964m allotted: £400m; Bids: £98.505% received: 70%; Last week: £98.54% received: 46%; Avge rate: £5.9014% last wk £5.8452%; Next week: £400m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	*7 day*	1 mth	*3 mth*	*6 mth*	**Call**
Dollar:	5⅛-5	5 17/32-5 13/32	5 19/32-5 15/32	5⅞-5¾	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3⅛	3 5/16-3 3/16	3 5/16-3 3/16	3 7/16-3 5/16	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	3 7/16-3 5/16	3 7/16-3 5/16	3½-3⅜	3 9/16-3 7/16	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	2½-1½	2¼-1¾	2-1¾	2-1¾	2¼-1¼
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $351.05-351.45 Close: $352.40-352.90 High: $353.30-353.80
Low: $350.50-351.00 AM: $351.70 PM: $352.80

Krugerrand: $351.75-354.75 (£219.25-221.25)

Platinum: $378.00 (£235.95) **Silver:** $5.15 (£3.215) **Palladium:** $148.50 (£92.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0226-3.0465	3.0359-3.0382	¾-⅝pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Brussels	55.390-55.880	55.647-55.752	15-10pr	42-35pr
Copenhagen	10.240-10.311	10.285-10.293	⅝-¼pr	⅛-⅜pr
Dublin	1.0161-1.0218	1.0189-1.0207	4-par	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.6854-2.7050	2.6988-2.7005	⅝-½pr	2⅛-1⅞pr
Lisbon	270.32-272.00	271.32-271.60	⅛-¼ds	⅛-¼ds
Madrid	227.81-229.65	229.12-229.39	9-2pr	30-12pr
Milan	2684.1-2709.6	2702.2-2705.7	24-40ds	63-85ds
Montreal	2.1892-2.2141	2.2114-2.2132	0.59-0.54pr	1.20-1.11pr
New York	1.5892-1.6041	1.6034-1.6041	0.85-0.65pr	0.265-0.235pr
Oslo	10.703-10.758	10.713-10.721	⅝-⅜pr	⅝-½pr
Paris	9.0560-9.1320	9.1113-9.1169	2½-2⅛pr	6⅞-6⅛pr
Stockholm	12.143-12.233	12.210-12.228	¼-⅛pr	⅝-⅛pr
Tokyo	196.07-196.94	196.22-196.47	⅝-½pr	2⅛-2⅛pr
Vienna	18.896-19.053	18.994-19.008	⅝-⅜pr	1⅝-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3119-2.3353	2.3273-2.3300	⅝-½pr	2⅛-2⅛pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2738-1.2746
Austria	*11.87-11.88*
Belgium (Com)	34.82-34.83
Canada	1.3801-1.3815
Denmark	6.4325-6.4345
France	*5.6927-5.6937*
Germany	1.6876-1.6881
Hong Kong	7.7475-7.7485
Ireland	1.5725-1.5735
Italy	1688.60-1689.30
Japan	122.50-122.60
Malaysia	2.4795-2.4805
Netherlands	1.8997-1.9002
Norway	6.6993-6.7055
Portugal	169.70-169.80
Singapore	1.4456-1.4466
Spain	143.29-143.32
Sweden	*7.6272-7.6347*
Switzerland	1.4560-1.4570

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6031-1.6058
Australia dollar	2.0433-2.0459
Bahrain dinar	*0.5945-0.6065*
Brazil real*	1.6949-1.6993
China yuan	13.056-13.355
Cyprus pound	0.7995-0.8095
Finland markka	*8.0175-8.1335*
Greece drachma	421.5-428.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.4282-12.4376
India rupee	56.66-57.62
Indonesia rupiah	3799.0-3867.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4790-0.4890
Malaysia ringgit	3.9768-3.9809
New Zealand dollar	2.3152-2.3183
Pakistan rupee	63.40 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7400-5.8640
Singapore dollar	2.3190-2.3221
S Africa rand (com)	7.0010-7.1030
U A E dirham	5.7900-5.9140

Barclays Bank GTS · Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,500	Land Secs	2,000
ASDA Gp	10,300	Legal & Gn	5,000
Abbey Ntl	3,500	*Lloyds TSB*	18,900
Allied Dom	2,300	LucasVarity	4,500
Argos	2,800	Marks Spr	12,200
AB Foods	1,800	Mercury Asst	1,100
BAA	2,400	NatWst Bk	14,800
BAT Inds	23,200	Nat Grid	7,400
BG	11,700	Nat Power	2,900
BOC	1,100	Next	942
BP	11,700	Orange	3,200
BSkyB	2,900	P & O	3,500
BTR	8,700	Pearson	2,600
BT	18,200	PowerGen	1,800
Bk of Scot	7,200	*Prudential*	6,900
Barclays	7,900	RMC	568
Bass	1,700	RTZ	2,300
Blue Circle	1,900	Railtrack	2,900
Boots	2,600	*Rank Group*	9,600
BAe	2,408	Reckitt Col	2,800
BA	2,300	Reed Intl	3,100
Brit Steel	20,100	Rentokil	5,600
Burmah Cstl	1,400	Reuters	6,800
Burton	3,400	Rolls Royce	18,500
Cable Wire	5,800	Royal & Sun	6,600
Cadbury	3,900	Royal Bk Sct	2,000
Carlton Cms	2,800	Safeway	3,500
Centrica	24,600	Sainsbury	3,600
Cm Union	4,400	Schroders	240
Dixons	1,200	Scot & New	1,500
EMI	1,300	Scot Power	3,700
Energy Gp	3,900	Svrn Trent	1,000
Enterpr Oil	2,400	Shell Trans	25,900
GKN	1,900	Siebe	3,000
GRE	5,800	SmKl Bch	5,800
GUS	4,200	Smith Nph	3,400
Gen Acc	4,200	Smiths Inds	1,600
Gen Elec	5,600	Std Chard	2,700
Glaxo Well	6,900	TI Gp	2,300
Granada	2,400	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Grand Met	5,000	Tesco	7,700
Guinness	19,200	Thames W	2,100
HSBC	5,800	Tomkins	5,400
Hanson	2,800	Unilever	2,300
Hays	1,900	Utd Utilities	1,900
ICI	3,500	Utd News	3,800
Imp Tob	7,800	Vodafone	11,600
Kingfisher	2,200	Whitbread	748
LASMO	1,900	Wolseley	1,200
Ladbroke	4,800	Zeneca	1,900

WALL STREET

	Mar 21 midday	Mar 20 close
AMP Inc	36¼	36⅛
AMR Corp	80¾	80¾
ASA	35¾	35⅞
AT & T	34¼	34⅛
Abbott Labs	58⅛	58⅞
Advanced Micro	40⅞	40⅞
Aetna Life	88¾	88¾
Ahmanson (HF)	39⅞	39⅝
Air Prod & Chem	71¾	71⅞
AirTouch Comm	24¾	24⅞
Alberto-Culver B	27⅞	27⅞
Albertson's	35¾	35⅞
Alcan Aluminm	35⅞	36
Allied Signal	72⅞	72¾
Alum Co of Am	73	73¾
Amax Gold Inc	7⅛	7¼
Amerada Hess	53⅞	53½
Amer Brands	50⅛	50⅞
Amer El Power	41¼	41¾
Amer Express	64⅝	64⅞
Amer Genl Corp	42	41¾
Amer Home Pr	63¼	63⅝
Amer Intl	124⅝	123¾
Amer Stores	44⅞	44⅞
Amer Standard	45¾	45¾
Ameritech	61¼	60⅞
Amoco	88⅛	88⅝
Anheuser-Busch	43⅞	43¾
Apple Computer	17	17⅛
Archer Daniels	17⅝	17½
Armco	3⅞	3¾
Armstrng Wrld	69⅞	70
Asarco	30¾	30⅞
Atl Richfield	129⅞	129⅞
Auto Data Pro	43¾	43¼
Avery Dennison	42⅝	42⅞
Avon Products	55¾	55⅞
Baker Hughes	39	38⅞
Baltm Gas & El	26¼	26¾
Banc One	43⅞	43¾
BankAmerica	110⅞	111
Bank of NY	39¾	38⅞
Bankers Tr NY	89⅞	88⅞
Barnett Banks	49⅛	48⅞
Bausch & Lomb	38⅝	38¾
Baxter Intl	45½	45¾
Bectn Dickinsn	47⅞	47⅞
Bell Atlantic	62¾	62⅞
Bell Industries	18⅛	18¾
BellSouth	43⅞	43⅛
Black & Decker	33⅞	33⅞
Block (H&R)	29½	29⅞
Boeing	105¾	104⅛
Boise Cascade	32¾	32⅝
Bristol Myrs Sq	66¾	66
Browning Ferris	28⅝	28⅞
Brunswick	28⅛	28¼
Burlington Nthn	78¾	78⅞
CMS Energy Corp	32¾	32¾
CNA Financial	110⅞	111¼
CPC Intl	82¾	81¼
CSX	47¼	48
Campbell Soup	47¼	47¼
Can Pacific	24¾	24¾
Carolina Pwr	36⅝	36¾
Caterpillar	80⅞	80⅛
Central & SW	22⅛	22⅞
Champion Intl	46	47⅛
Chase Manhat	102¾	101¼
Chevron Corp	68⅝	67¼
Chrysler	29⅞	29⅝
Chubb Corp	58	57⅞
Cigna Corp	153¾	152⅞
Citicorp	116⅝	116
Clorox	118¾	117¾
Coastal Corp	47⅞	47¾
Coca Cola	59⅞	59
Coca Cola Ent	61¾	62⅞
Colgate-Palm	107	106¾
Columbia Gas	60⅞	60⅞
ColumbiaHCA	40⅞	41¾
Compaq Comp	75¾	75⅞
Comp Ass Int	39⅞	39⅞
Conagra	54¾	54¾
Conrail	112⅞	112⅞
Cons Edison	30	30
Cons Nat Gas	57¾	57¼
Cooper Inds	45¾	45⅞
Corestates	51¼	51¾
Corning Inc	45¾	45¾
Crown Cork	53⅞	53
Dana Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Dayton Hudson	42⅞	42¾
Deere	45¾	45⅞
Delta Air Lines	85¾	84⅞
Deluxe Corp	32¾	32¾
Digital Equip	28⅞	28⅞
Dillard Dept St	31¾	31¼
Disney (Walt)	74¾	74⅛
Dominion Res	38⅞	38⅞
Donelley (RR)	34⅞	34
Dover Corp	53	53
Dow Chemical	83⅞	82⅞
Dow Jones	42¾	42⅞
Dresser	31¾	30⅝
Duke Power	43⅞	43⅞
Dun & Brdstreet	26⅞	26⅞
Du Pont	109⅞	108⅞
Eastman Chem	54⅞	54⅞
Eastman Kodak	82¾	88⅞
Eaton Corp	74	73⅞
Edison Int	21¼	21¼
Elect Data Sys	41¼	41⅛
Emerson Elec	49⅞	49⅞
Engelhard Corp	22⅞	22⅛
Enron Corp	40¼	39⅞
Entergy	24¼	25
Ethyl Corp	8⅝	8⅞
Exxon	102	101¼
FMC Corp	64¾	65
FPL Group	44⅞	44¼
Federal Express	55⅞	55
First Bk Sys	77⅞	75½
First Union Rlty	13¼	13⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	60⅛	59⅞
Fluor Corp	54¾	53⅞
Ford Motor	31¾	31¼
GTE Corp	46⅞	46⅞
Gannett	87⅞	86½
Gap Inc Del	34⅞	34⅛
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	67	66¾
Gen Electric	103½	102⅞
Gen Mills	61¾	61⅛
Gen Motors	56¾	56⅞
Gen Reinsurance	167⅞	166⅞
Gen Signal	40	39⅞
Genuine Parts	47⅞	47¾
Georgia Pac	76¼	76¼
Gillette	79⅞	78⅞
Glaxo Welc ADR	34¼	34⅛
Goodrich (BF)	39⅛	38⅞
Goodyear Tire	54⅞	54¾
Grt Atl Pac Tea	27⅞	27⅞
Great Wstn Fin	44⅞	44⅞
Halliburton	64	69⅞
Harcourt General	46⅞	46
Heinz (HJ)	40⅞	40⅞
Hercules	42	42⅞
Hershey Foods	50⅞	50⅞
Hewlett Packard	57⅞	57
Hilton Hotels	25⅞	25⅞
Home Depot	57⅞	57⅞
Homestake Mng	15¾	15⅛
Honeywell	73¾	73½
Household Intl	93½	93⅞
Houston Inds	20⅞	20⅞
Humana	22	21¼
ITT Corp	59⅞	59⅞
Ikon Office	34¼	35½
Illinois Tool	89⅞	88⅞
Illinova	23⅞	23¼
INCO	35⅛	35
Ingersoll Rand	47	47
Inland Steel	19⅞	19⅞
Intel Corp	133⅞	133⅛
IBM	134⅞	136⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	45½	46
Intl Paper	42¾	42¾
James River Va	32	32⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57⅞	57⅞
Kellogg	67¾	67½
Kerr-McGee	64⅞	64⅞
Kimberly-Clark	104⅞	104¾
Kmart	12⅞	12⅞
Knight-Ridder	41¼	41¼
Lilly (Eli)	86¼	86
Limited Inc	19⅛	19⅛
Lincoln Nat	57¾	57⅞
Litton	40⅛	40⅞
Liz Claiborne	45⅞	44⅞
Lockheed Martin	82¼	82⅞
Louisiana Pac	21⅞	21⅞
MCI Comm	38¾	38⅞
Manpower Inc	39⅞	39⅛
Marriott Int	51	50⅞
Marsh & McLnn	122⅞	122¾
Masco Corp	36¾	36⅞
May Dept St	49⅞	49⅞
Maytag Corp	21¾	21⅞
McDonalds	47	47⅛
McDonnell D	65¾	65⅞
McGraw Hill	50⅞	50⅞
Mead Corp	57	57⅞
Medtronic	62¾	63
Mellon Bk	78⅞	77⅞
Merck Inc	90⅛	90¾
Merrill Lynch	92⅞	91⅞
Microsoft	96⅞	96
Minnesota Mine	87⅞	88⅞
Mobil Corp	132⅞	132⅞
Monsanto	39⅞	40⅞
Morgan (JP)	104⅞	103¾
Motorola Inc	55⅞	56½
Natl Semi	27⅞	28
Natl Service Ind	39	38¾
Navistar Int	9⅞	9⅞
NY Times A	47¾	47½
Newmont Mng	42⅞	42⅞
Niag Mohawk	8⅛	8⅞
Nike B	66⅞	67⅞
NL Industries	11	10¾
Noram Energy	14¾	14⅞
Nordstrom	35	38
Norfolk Sthn	91⅞	90⅞
Nthn State Pwr	47⅞	47⅞
Norwest Corp	49⅞	49⅞
Nynex Corp	47¼	47
Occidental Pet	25	24¾
Ohio Edison	21¼	21¾
Oracle	40⅞	39⅞
Oryx Energy Co	19⅞	19⅞
Overseas Ship	17	17
Owens Corning	41¼	40⅞
PHH Corp	47⅞	47⅞
PPG Industries	55¾	54⅞
PNC Bank	42¾	42
PP&L Res	20⅞	20⅞
Paccar Inc	68⅞	68⅞
Pacificorp	20⅞	20⅞
Pac Enterprises	30⅞	30⅞
Pac Telesis	39⅞	38⅞
Pall Corp	23⅛	23¾
Parker Hannifin	44¼	44¾
Peco Energy	20⅞	20⅞
Penney (JC)	49⅞	49⅞
Pennzoil	50⅞	50⅞
Pepsico	32⅞	32⅞
Pfizer	90⅞	89⅞
Pharm & Upjhn	37	36⅞
Phelps Dodge	75¼	75¾
Philip Morris	112¾	115⅞
Phillips Pet	42	41¼
Pitney Bowes	59⅞	59⅞
Polaroid	42⅞	42⅞
Procter & Gmbl	122⅞	120⅞
Providian	55⅞	55⅞
Pub Serv E & G	26⅞	26¾
Quaker Oats	37	37
Ralston Purina	83	82⅞
Raychem Corp	87⅞	87
Raytheon	47	47⅞
Reebok Intl	48⅞	48⅛
Reynolds Metals	63⅞	63
Rockwell Intl	68⅞	68⅞
Rohm & Haas	79⅞	79⅞
Royal Dutch	174¾	172⅞
Rubbermaid	24⅞	24⅛
SBC Comms	54⅞	53⅞
Safeco Corp	39¾	39⅞
St Paul's Cos	68⅞	68
Salomon Inc	54¾	54
Sara Lee Corp	41¼	41
Schering Plough	77⅞	77¾
Schlumberger	110⅞	110½
Seagram	38⅞	38¼
Sears Roebuck	52½	52⅞
Shell Trans	103¼	102½
Sherwin Wllms	55⅞	55¼
Skyline Corp	23	23
Snap-On-Tools	40⅞	40⅞
Southern Co	21¼	21¼
Sprint Corp	47¾	47⅞
Stanley Works	39⅞	39⅞
Sun Company	27⅞	27⅞
Sun Microsys	28⅞	28⅞
Suntrust	50⅞	49⅞
Supervalu	30⅞	29⅞
Sysco Corp	33¾	33⅞
TRW Inc	54	53⅞
TCC Inds	1¾	1¾
Tandem Comp	11⅞	12
Tandy Corp	51¾	51¾
Temple Inland	54⅛	54⅛
Tenneco	39⅞	39⅞
Texaco	101	101
Texas Inst	77⅞	76½
Texas Utilities	34⅞	35
Textron	102½	102⅞
Time Warner	44¼	44
Times-Mirror A	57⅞	57½
Timken	53¾	53½
Torchmark	58⅞	58¾
Toys R Us	28¾	28⅛
Transamerica	89⅞	90⅞
Travelers	51	50⅞
Tribune	40⅞	40
Tyco Int	59⅞	59⅞
UST Inc	27⅞	27⅞
UAL	67⅞	66⅞
US Inds	36¾	37⅞
US West Comm	33¾	33⅞
US West Media	19	18⅞
USAirways Group	25¼	25¾
USX Marathon	27	27
Unicom	20⅞	20⅞
Unilever NV	186⅞	183⅞
Union Camp	48¾	48⅞
Union Carbide	47⅞	48
Union Pacific	59⅞	58¾
Unisys Corp	6¾	6⅞
USF&G Corp	22⅞	22
US Life	47⅞	47⅞
United Tech	77	76
Unocal Corp	38¾	38⅞
VF Corp	68⅞	68⅞
WMX Tech	30⅞	30⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	29⅛	29⅞
Warner-Lambert	86⅞	87
Wells Fargo	297½	295⅞
Westinghouse El	18¼	18⅞
Weyerhaeuser	47⅞	47⅞
Whirlpool	50⅝	50⅝
Whitman	23⅞	24
Winn Dixie	32⅞	32⅞
Woolworth	23⅞	23⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	58⅞	58⅞
Xerox	60⅞	60⅞
Yellow Corp	17⅛	16¾

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON

05 | 97 K25T

هكذا من الأصل

CODE BREAKERS 36

Penalties for bad advice by lenders

WEEKEND
MONEY

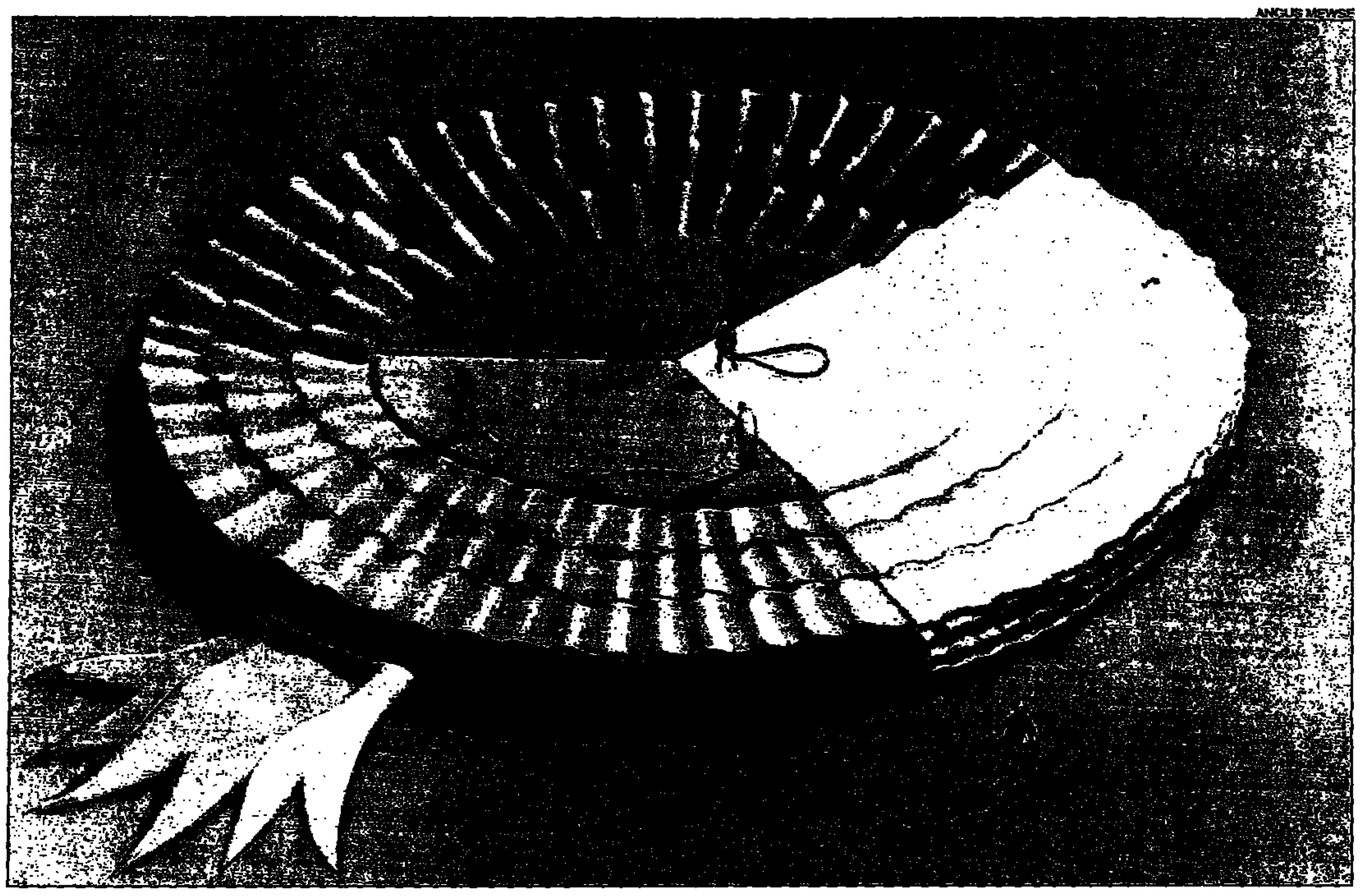
LEARNING CURVE 35

Budding brokers in class

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Anne Ashworth, Caroline Merrell and **Sara McConnell** ask the main parties to explain their policies

Pensions and tax top agenda



ANGUS MEWSE

To date, the state of the economy has not figured large in the early election skirmishes between the parties. But issues such as tax and pensions remain at the top of the agenda. We canvassed the three main parties to find out their personal finance policies, discovering that new Labour is now enemy of the Pep and that the Liberal Democrats believe that we need a special ministry for savings.

Pensions

These used to be an electoral yawn. But the Conservatives' promise two weeks ago of a radical overhaul of the whole system of state and private pension provision has set the pace for a heated debate on the whole future of retirement provision. All three leading political parties have now acknowledged the once-unpalatable truth that the state pension system set up 50 years ago is creaking at the seams.

■ **Conservatives** propose to sweep all state pension contributions, including the once sacred basic state pension, into personal pensions run by life insurance companies. These payments will be invested, along with top-up contributions from individuals, to produce personal pension funds on retirement.

Under the Tory scheme, £9 a week from employees' national insurance contributions will be rebated into their personal pension. This is intended to provide a basic state pension. If contributions grow faster than expected, individuals will get bigger basic pensions. If insurers fail to perform to a minimum level, the State will provide an underpinning guarantee.

On top of this, employees will have a compulsory 5 per cent of their earnings between set lower and upper limits rebated into their private pensions instead of being paid into the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps).

The Tories have not dared to make it compulsory to top up the basic and earnings-related pension with further contributions, although anyone wanting a good pension and not in an employer's scheme will have to invest substantial extra sums. But the pensions industry is dismayed at the Tories' plans to fund the cost of the proposed changes by making coming generations pay contributions from taxed income and receive pensions tax-free on retirement. Currently pensions are taxed but contributions get generous tax relief, widely considered one of the main incentives to invest.

■ **Labour** has long been exploring options for more private pension provision, but it is reluctant to commit itself to detail before an election. But it is wary of giving too large a role to life assurance companies, which it believes have forfeited the public's trust through the pensions mis-selling scandal. Instead, it favours a system of second-tier "stakeholder pensions", possibly run by unions or other affinity groups, supplementing the basic state pension. Workers would pay the 4.8 per cent they currently pay to Serps into the stakeholder pension plus any top-up contributions they make for themselves. Serps would almost certainly be run down. This proposal does not differ greatly from the Tories' plans. Like the Tories, Labour would insist that companies administering and investing second-tier pensions must be approved.

But unlike the Tories, Labour will hold back from investing the basic state pension. Instead, it will continue to use the national insurance contributions of today's workers to pay today's pensioners. It is also considering a "flexible decade" of retirement, allowing people to retire between 60 and 70. The Tories have raised the state retirement age for all women over 40 to 65.

■ **Liberal Democrats** admitted this week that their plans for pensions did not differ fundamentally from Labour's. Like Labour they would keep the basic state pension separate from second-tier invested pensions and uprate it in line with prices. They would also phase out Serps and make it compulsory for a 5 per cent earnings-related contribution to be paid into private pensions run by insurance companies.

But Liberal Democrats plan changes to income support to make sure the poorest pensioners claim their due. They would introduce a means-tested pensioner benefit which would be paid automatically to those who qualify. Tax-free lump sums taken on retirement will be limited to £75,000, affecting those on salaries of £50,000 or more. Employers would be compelled to contribute 5 per cent of an employee's gross salary into a personal pension or other scheme for the employee's benefit if there was no employer's scheme.

Tax

The headline rate of income tax has a high profile, and, at the last election, the level of national insurance contributions became a live issue.

■ **Labour** has pledged that it will not increase the basic rate or the higher rate of tax for the next term. These two taxes currently stand at 24 per cent, falling to 23 per cent in April, and 40 per cent. However, the party has stayed silent on whether it would leave personal allowances untouched, or raise national insurance.

Labour is not in favour of scrapping capital gains tax. Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "We oppose abolition of capital gains tax, and want to modify the system." There is some suggestion that different rates of the tax might be introduced for short and long-term gains, with the aim of encouraging long-term investment. Inheritance tax would also stay under a Labour government, with efforts being made to close present loopholes in the system.

■ **Conservatives**, on the other hand, are committed to reducing the basic rate of tax to 20 per cent. Since coming to power in 1979, they have systematically cut tax rates. In 1979, the basic rate of tax was 33 per cent, while the top rate of tax on earnings was 83 per cent.

The Conservatives are also promising to reduce capital gains tax and inheritance tax. The party is also committed to the cause of tax simplification.

■ **Liberal Democrats** want to add 1p to the basic rate of income tax, and they want to expand personal allowances by £200 to take a further 500,000 out of the tax base. They would not change capital gains or inheritance tax.

Polls and the stock market, page 41

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Parties push protection

The safety of our savings is another election issue, especially as all parties want us to make more private provision for our old age. The effectiveness of the costly panopoly of investor protection has also exercised the parties' strategists.

The Conservatives are not in favour of wholesale structural reform of financial regulation, as it would be expensive. However, the party believes that the existing framework should undergo "cost benefit analysis" to reduce the level of bureaucracy.

By contrast, Labour proposes sweeping reform of investor protection and immediate action to resolve the personal pension mis-selling scandal.

Mike O'Brien, Shadow Economic Secretary, emphasised that it was not his ambition to establish a UK equivalent of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the US investor protection body. Instead, Labour would combine all the current investor protection bodies in an enlarged version of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the existing head of the regulation pyramid. Labour's aim would be to end the bureaucracy, confusion and high costs that bedevil the present structure.

This supreme body would take over all the current functions of the pack of watchdogs that now preside over the financial services industry, including the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), responsible for financial advisers and insurance companies.

It is envisaged that the merging of the bodies would give the SIB more draconian disciplinary power and allow it to act with greater speed. Labour also promises to act to ensure that the 558,000 people wrongly advised to take out personal pensions that were poor value receive redress.

The 25 companies responsible for mis-selling would be given individual deadlines for the payment of compensation to their customers. If they failed to meet these deadlines, which would elapse before the end of this year, they would be publicly disciplined.

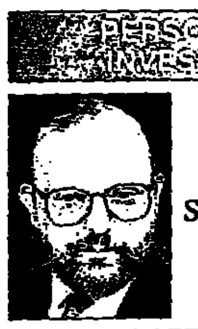
If the Liberal Democrats came to power they would swiftly re-establish a ministry of consumer affairs, which would include responsibility for all aspects of personal finance. The first task of this department would be to review the current framework of investor protection, including the effectiveness of the existing investor watchdogs.

The Liberal Democrats would like to look more closely into how the structure now in place works before proposing its immediate abolition. However, the party does believe that the system may have become outmoded in view of the growing number of individuals now making private pension provision.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Norwich way is no precedent

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Norwich Union's great vote on April 18 looks much more of a foregone conclusion than the one on May 1. Some 1.1 million people have guaranteed life policies that do not participate in profits of the investment fund and have little interest in the change of status. But they have a vote. Norwich has offered them nearly £400 worth of shares regardless, because the board needs those votes to win a three-quarters majority for conversion. Votes are worth something.

Norwich's 1.8 million with-profit policyholders will receive more free shares, on the more logical ground that they own the life fund. Unlike building society investors, they are not simply trading future benefits of mutuality for cash now. Norwich's capital will have to be serviced with dividends, but there is an offsetting advantage.

One purpose of the flotation is to raise £1.5 billion of new money to buy Norwich's motor, health and general insurance businesses from the life fund. By making the fund more flexible, that should help Norwich to become more competitive in its investment returns. This argument does not apply to pure mutual life offices. So the Norwich vote should not set a precedent.

With up to 2.9 million initial shareholders, Norwich will be far behind Halifax but looks a more intriguing investment. Many with-profit policyholders will have a holding big enough to be worth holding on to. Most non-profit policyholders will want to cash in.

Unlike at some building societies, institutional investors can come in from the start. So there need not be an unseemly (if profitable) stampede of fund managers bidding to buy out small investors as soon as the shares are quoted.

The accompanying share issue is the worrying part of the package. It will be made by techniques now favoured by finance directors and international investment banks, which turn private investors into zombies.

In a conventional offer, issuers or vendors set a price that City underwriters are prepared to guarantee and then invite the public to subscribe for shares. Under a bookbuilding approach, the issuer nominates a price range, which may be only 10 per cent top to bottom, but can be 50 per cent. Its adviser, in this case Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, invites bids from fund managers to arrive at a sale price that will cover the issue comfortably. Private investors accept the price arrived at without knowing what it is when they send their cheques. They have to buy a pig (or perhaps a turkey) in a poke. To compensate, members will be offered a discount in the Norwich case, as small investors were in recent privatisations. The implication is that small investors cannot go wrong, even though they cannot exercise their judgment, because they are buying cheaper than the professionals.

There is no guarantee. Professionals can get it wrong as easily as amateurs. BZW's sale of British Energy quickly left private investors nursing an 11 per cent loss, in spite of a 5 per cent discount, although the patient now sit on a handsome profit. Professionals can always err. In the Norwich case, institutions could bid low, knowing they could quickly pick up £1 billion of stock from policyholders. They might bid high, reckoning to pay a premium at the start rather than scramble for stock later.

Any risk for members of Norwich Union, who will already have free shares, is small. This will not always be the case. One palliative is to offer "blind" bidders a much bigger discount than the initial 5 per cent on British Energy. But that brings other distortions. There is strong pressure on the City, from Parliament and competition regulators as well as treasurers, to abandon underwriting, along with rights issues *et al*, in favour of seemingly cheaper techniques that leave small investors in the cold.

Markets still need small investors to function effectively. Millions more will join the markets this year. They will not stay, let alone roam wider, if they are treated as an afterthought.

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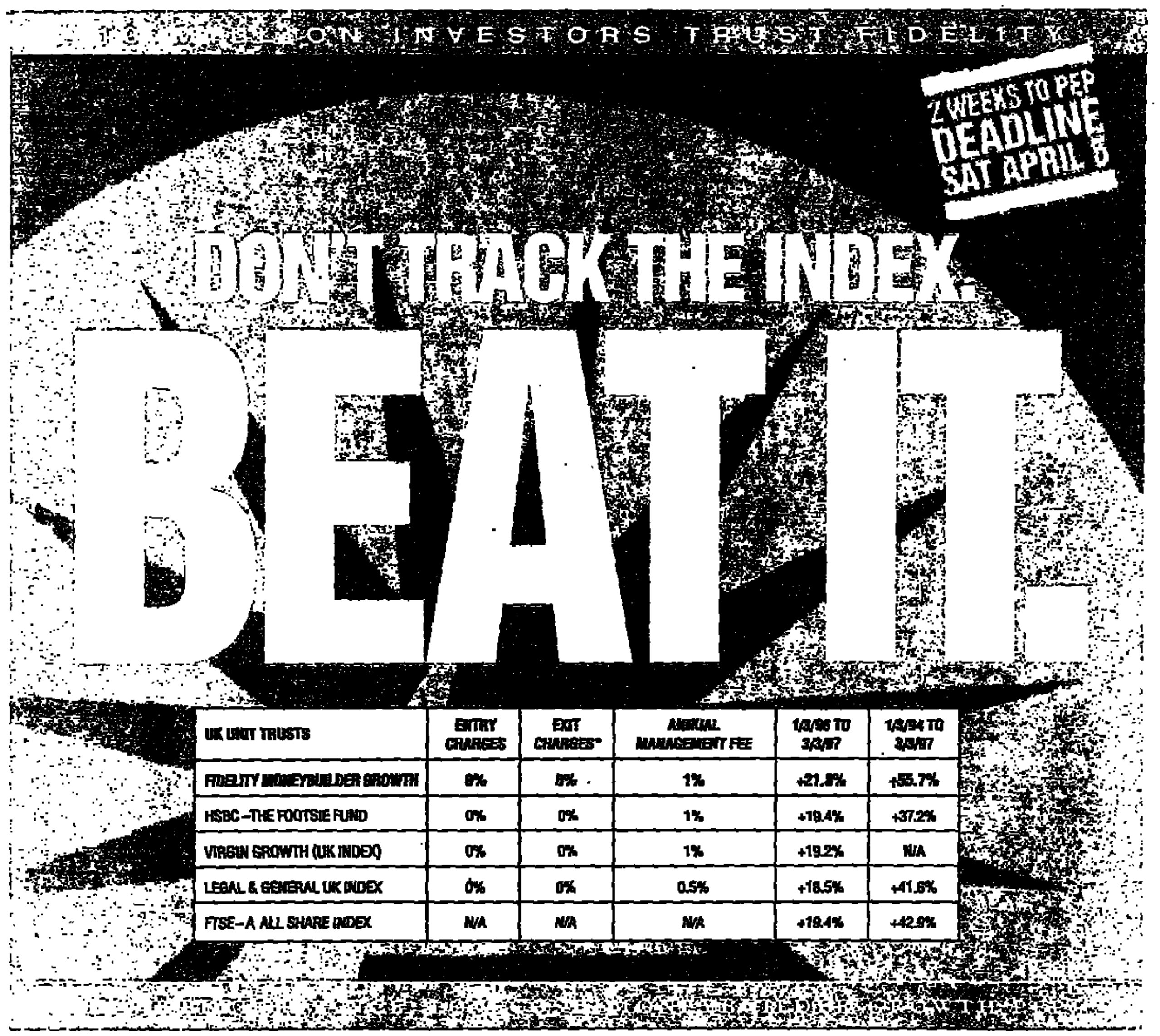

UK UNIT TRUSTS	ENTRY CHARGES	EXIT CHARGES*	ANNUAL MANAGEMENT FEE	1/3/96 TO 3/3/97	1/3/94 TO 3/3/97
FIDELITY MONEYBUILDER GROWTH	0%	0%	1%	+21.8%	+55.7%
HSBC – THE FOOTSIE FUND	0%	0%	1%	+19.4%	+37.2%
VIRGIN GROWTH (UK INDEX)	0%	0%	1%	+19.2%	N/A
LEGAL & GENERAL UK INDEX	0%	0%	0.5%	+18.5%	+41.6%
FTSE – A ALL SHARE INDEX	N/A	N/A	N/A	+19.4%	+42.9%

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†The performance of the FT-SE® 100 Index over five years to 27 December 1996 is calculated on an offer to bid basis including all dividend income net of tax. Tessa performance is based on the average of all Tessas available for the whole period. Source: HSW

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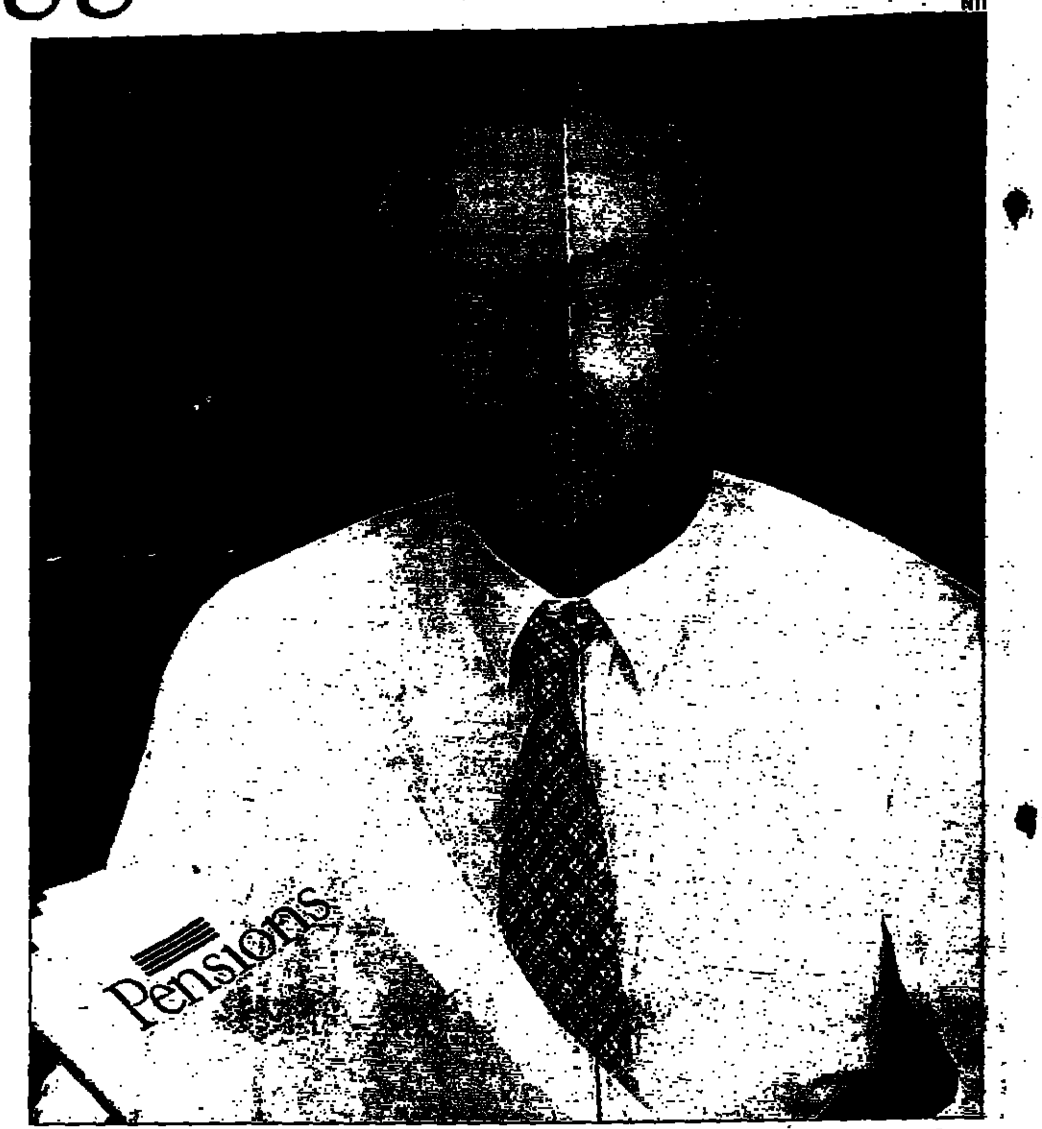
Sara McConnell on an uphill fight for justice

Slow road to redress for aggrieved teacher



Richard Glasspoole has faced excuses at every turn in his struggle for compensation

It is nearly five years since Richard Glasspoole, a teacher with 18 years' service, was advised to transfer his pension fund into a Scottish Amicable personal pension. His teacher's pension was index-linked and provided generous widow's benefits. Scottish Amicable's scheme, like other personal pensions, offered no such benefits.

His fight for compensation is being blocked at every turn with excuses from the firm of independent financial advisers which sold him the policy, and Scottish Amicable. His experience is symptomatic of those wrongly advised to transfer.

Last week Joe Palmer, chairman of the Personal Investment Authority, and Colette Bowe, the PIA's chief executive, were given a roasting by the Treasury Parliamentary Select Committee for their slow and inept handling of the industry-wide review of pension mis-selling under PIA supervision. Mr Palmer was forced to admit that he did not know when the review would be completed. More than half a million people, including Mr Glasspoole, were wrongly advised to transfer, but only a handful have been compensated. It has since emerged that the number of people dying before getting redress outnumbers those who have received compensation by three to one.

Even before Mr Glasspoole signed the transfer forms, he was having second thoughts. When he expressed doubts, he was wrongly told he could cancel the personal pension.

According to calculations earlier this year from the Teachers Pension Agency, if he had left his frozen pension where it was, it would have provided 49-year-old Mr Glasspoole with an annual pension of £4,963 and a tax-free lump sum of £14,589. Mr Glasspoole has worked out from Scottish Amicable's latest valuation of his fund that after taking the same lump sum as he would get from the teacher's pension, he would have to buy an annuity giving him a yield of 12 per cent to get as good an annual pension.

Mr Glasspoole is too young to have been automatically included in the PIA's review, which makes a priority of cases of the retired and those about to retire. But in 1995, he demanded a review of the file by his IFA as he has a right to under the terms of the review.

According to Mr Glasspoole, the adviser told him the personal pension would grow at a guaranteed rate of 10 per cent. In fact personal pensions depend on the fortunes of the stock market and have no guarantees. The adviser made no mention of the risks of personal pensions compared with the teacher's pension where benefits are safeguarded by the employer and indexed.

For the past two years, Mr Glasspoole has periodically received letters from the firm's compliance office promising: "We are addressing this matter urgently and we shall be in contact with you in due course." To date, no review has started.

In September 1995, the firm said it could not carry out the review because it could not get access to a "transfer analysis system" to calculate compensation. It continued: "Certain insurance companies including Scottish Amicable have taken a corporate decision to not (sic) carry out these analysis (sic)." Scottish Amicable denies this and says systems have been in place since 1993.

But Scottish Amicable refuses to get involved in resolving Mr Glasspoole's case or those of any others. It cites industry demarcation rules which say that people who buy policies from IFAs must deal with the adviser and not the insurance company. Companies refuse to accept responsibility for accepting business which later turns out to be wrong advice. Scottish Amicable says: "The IFA is going through the review process so obviously we can't interfere."

After being contacted by *The Times*, Scottish Amicable agreed to "contact the adviser and make it aware of new correspondence". This includes the letter from the IFA blaming Scottish Amicable for failing to provide a transfer analysis system. The insurer had seen none of the letters from the IFA and was unaware of this one until sent it by *The Times*.

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Necessity is the mother of invention

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Curious thing, coincidence. On March 13, Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, gave warning that insurance companies failing to compensate customers wrongly sold personal pensions would be excluded from the lucrative business opportunities arising from the proposed state pensions reforms.

On March 20, Legal & General, once branded a "serial pensions misseller" said it had a solution to the compensation crisis. L&G believes it would be easier to restore lost pension benefits to its customers on retirement, rather than doing it now.

Any attempt to bring new thinking to bear on the personal pensions affair must be welcome. But it seems strange that, after years of delay, one of the principal culprits has suddenly seen a way out of the mess.

The developments may be connected with L&G's decision to start offering pensions by telephone, the new growth area where Virgin Direct, a group untainted by the personal pension débâcle, has made such a splash. A large unpaid compensation bill might prove an inconvenience when marketing no-frills pensions to the cynical young who are the target market for such schemes.

But L&G is also all too aware that both the Conservatives and Labour now have its industry under close surveillance. It is a shame that the displeasure of politicians counts for more than the misery of the 18,000 people persuaded to leave the warmth of a company scheme for the chill of an L&G pension. However, these individuals should now raise their voices against the L&G initiative saying that they want their cases settled now. L&G should not be permitted to buy time for itself.

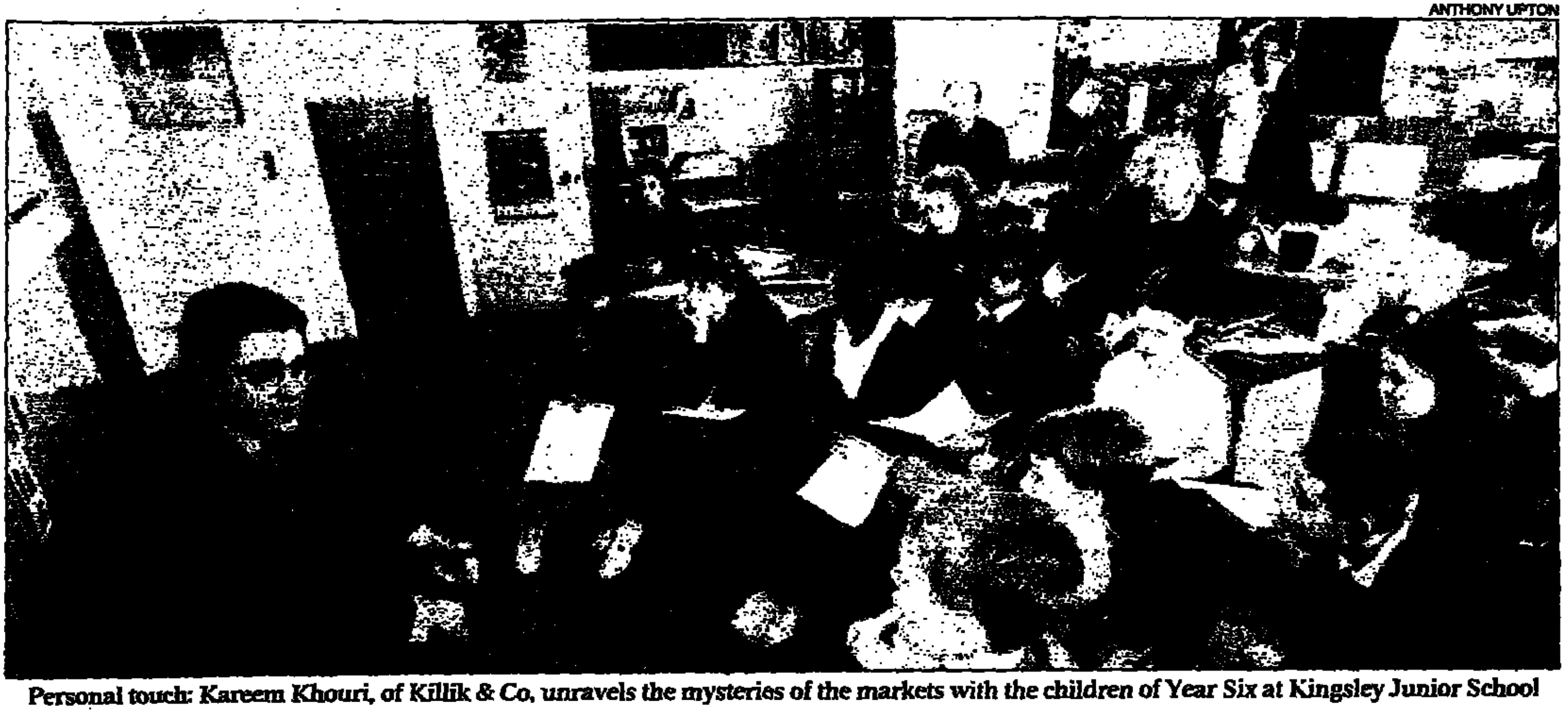
Code of silence

In 1938 Noël Coward described the owners of the stately homes of England as "mortgaged to the hilt". Subsequently this has become the sorry state of millions of commoners. Until today, however, there has been no code governing how mortgages should be sold. Banks and building societies were not responsible for ensuring that borrowers chose loans suitable to their needs.

Under the terms of the code's draft version, published a year ago, lenders were still not obliged to give advice, a point criticised by Weekend Money. Fortunately, this omission has been put right, although it is odd to allow lenders to provide three different levels of advice, further complicating the already fearsome task of choosing a mortgage (see page 36).

The code is also voluntary — another shortcoming. This means that those who already deal fairly with their customers will become even more circumspect, while the rest persist in bad practice.

ANTHONY UPTON



Personal touch: Kareem Khouri, of Killik & Co, unravels the mysteries of the markets with the children of Year Six at Kingsley Junior School

Budding brokers

How to invest a million pounds is the problem we would all like to have. But such questions have passed beyond adult daydreams and into the classroom. The Year Six maths group at Kingsley Junior in Croydon, Surry, has entered a competition for local schools in which pupils vie to make the best return on a mythical £1 million investment.

Sarah Mills, one of the class, asked Weekend Money to find them a stock market expert. We sent Kareem Khouri of Killik & Co, the private-client specialist broker, to visit the school to explain how the stock markets work and to put the case for investing in shares.

Mr Khouri's visit to Kinsgley Junior School followed a session with NatWest which had preached the virtues of the savings account. Mr Khouri, 25, was determined to convey the message that shares are a worthwhile investment. He said: "Children only find the stock market boring because they are not taught about it. In fact it's just the sort of thing which appeals to them, and I reckon there will be no problems. Remember that it's a game, with winners and losers."

The moment he began to tell the class about investing their imaginary fortune, silence fell. As he moved from the history of the Stock Exchange and the laws of supply and demand to more technical matters, the children began to sit up.

He explained at length how stock market indices are compiled and how share prices rise and fall, referring to *The Times* share prices page. He brought out a graph of sample shares, showing how £1 million could have shrunk to £350,000 in one share or grown to £1,650,000 in another over a year. They found this fascinating. Even more intriguing was the idea of investing in football club shares.

Some questions were surprisingly sophisticated. One pupil said: "The people from NatWest said it was safer to put money in a bank and now you say it's better in the stock market. How do we know which is right?" Mr Khouri then explained the relationship between risk and return.

After two hours of his market talk, many of the children had announced their decision to seek stockbroking careers when they grew up. Kenny Arnold, 11, said: "Stockbroking sounds exciting and you make lots of money. I bet it's fun when companies go bust and things." Helen Hunt, also 11, was equally keen for a City career. "Before today I wanted to be a doctor, but now I think it would be good to help people put their money in the right place and get them lots more."

The children are now deciding on their stockpicking strategy and we will report Kingsley Junior's progress in the competition.

NATHAN YATES

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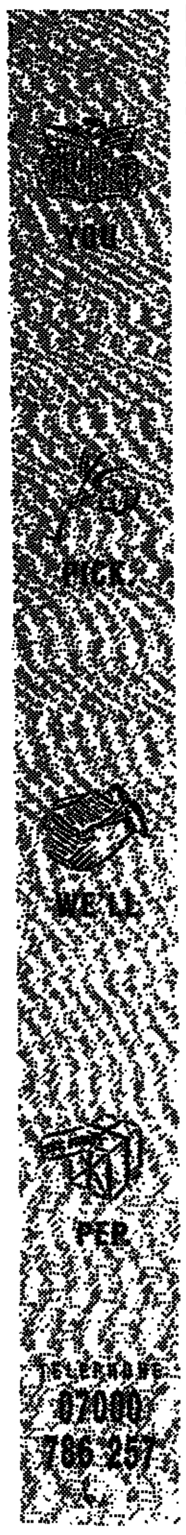

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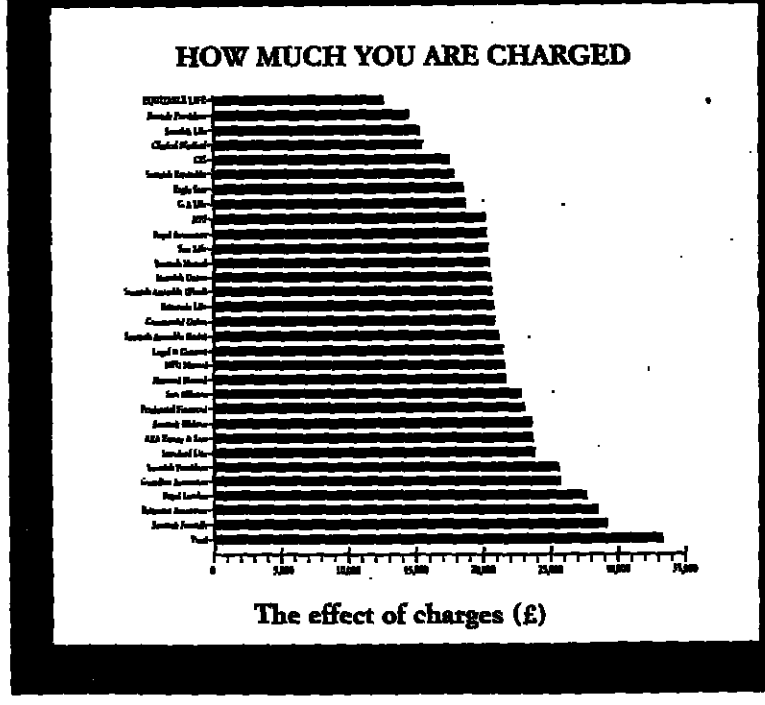

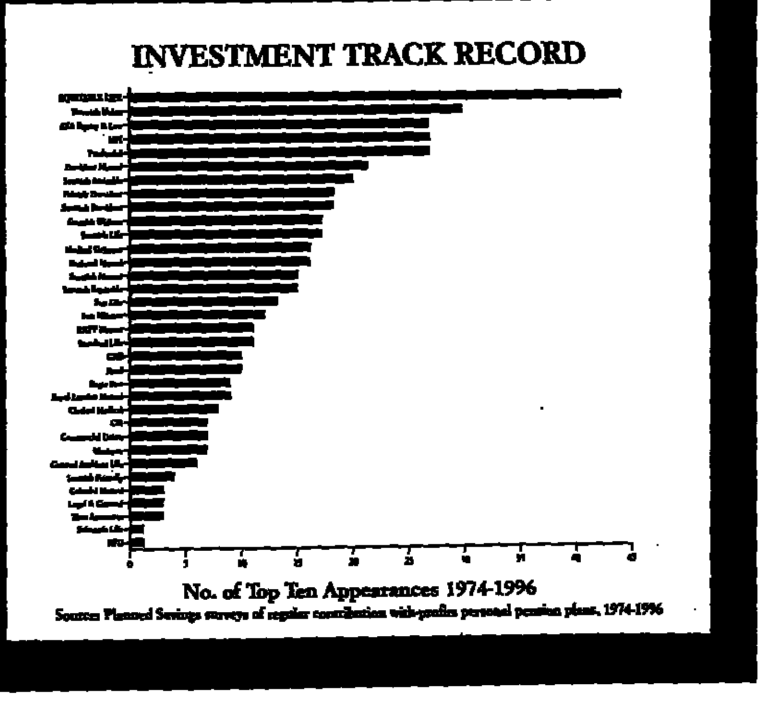

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

Price, performance and flexibility are perhaps the key indicators that will enable you to differentiate the wheat from the chaff.

PRICE

All companies are now required to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £200 pm, 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Management, October 1996.

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Lenders will have to accept responsibility for advice, says **Sara McConnell**

Code breakers face the penalty

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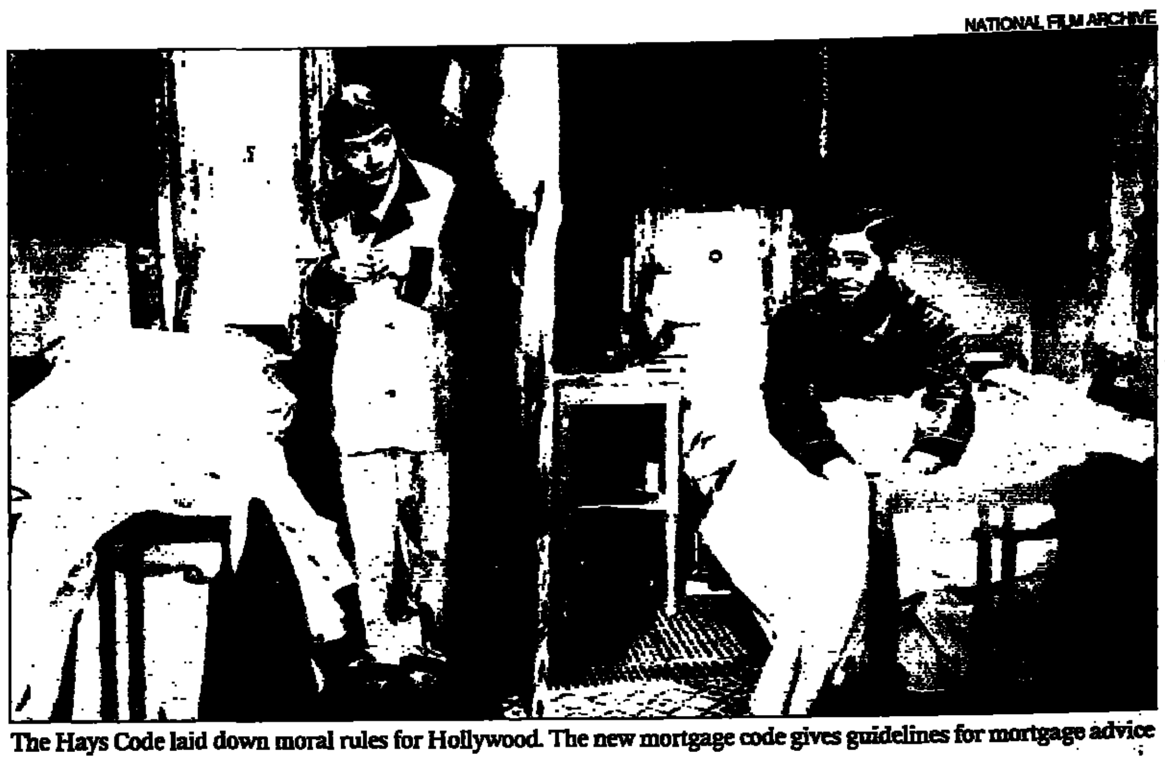

The Hays Code laid down moral rules for Hollywood. The new mortgage code gives guidelines for mortgage advice

Lenders will be forced for the first time to accept some responsibility for the mortgage recommendations they make to borrowers, under a revised code of practice on mortgage selling to be implemented in July.

Centralised lenders, who sold some of the riskiest loans in the 1980s boom and exposed borrowers to large debts in the recession, will also have to sign up to a compulsory arbitration scheme. Borrowers taking loans from centralised lenders previously had no access to an independent complaints procedure.

But mortgage intermediaries, including insurance salesmen, estate agents, housebuilders, solicitors and accountants, will not be expected to sign up to the code until spring 1998, although they arrange half of all new mortgages. The Council of Mortgage Lenders, which is responsible for the code, also admits it has no powers to force any lender to sign up. It said: "We can't ultimately twist lenders' arms." The code is voluntary and it is up to lenders to choose whether to be bound by its provisions.

The CML was forced to rewrite the first draft of the code after it came under fierce attack from the media and consumer groups. Objections centred on the code's failure to require lenders to be responsible for their own mortgage advice or information. Adrian Coles, then director-general of the CML, said such a requirement would "go against the principle of customers taking responsibility for their own actions". Currently sales of mortgages are not covered by existing legislation. Sales of investments taken out to repay mortgage debts, including endowment policies, pensions and personal equity plans, are covered by the Financial Services Act. Loans under £15,000 are covered by the Consumer Credit Act.

But there is no existing legislation governing sales of mortgages, although the range of fixed, capped and discount rates and other gimmicks such as cashbacks is frequently confusing to borrowers and draconian penalties for early withdrawal not fully explained. The housing market recovery is also resulting in the reappearance of riskier 100 per cent mortgages and non-status loans where borrowers "self certificate" their income. Such loans contributed to negative equity, arrears and repossessions during the recession.

Labour has called for mortgages to be brought within the Financial Services Act but the CML is resisting this, saying its proposed code will be more flexible. The code covers:

- **Choosing a mortgage.** Lenders will offer three levels of service — advice on different types of loan, information on loans without advice, and information about a single mortgage. In a significant change to the previous draft, lenders will have to confirm details of the loan in writing, giving borrowers time to back out. Previously, borrowers were expected to sign to say they had received and understood the information, effectively removing any future responsibility from lenders.
- **Explaining mortgage terms.** This will include repayments, penalties, compulsory insurance and other costs including upfront fees.
- **The consequences of not making repayments.** Borrowers will be told they will be liable for repayments and mortgage arrears until their home is repossessed and sold. They will not be covered by mortgage indemnity insurance, which they will have had to take out if their loan was for more than 75 per cent of the property's value. This insurance covers the *lender* not the borrower.
- **Complaints procedure.** Mortgage complaints are currently dealt with by the Building Society or Banking Ombudsman. They will be joined by an independent arbitrator.

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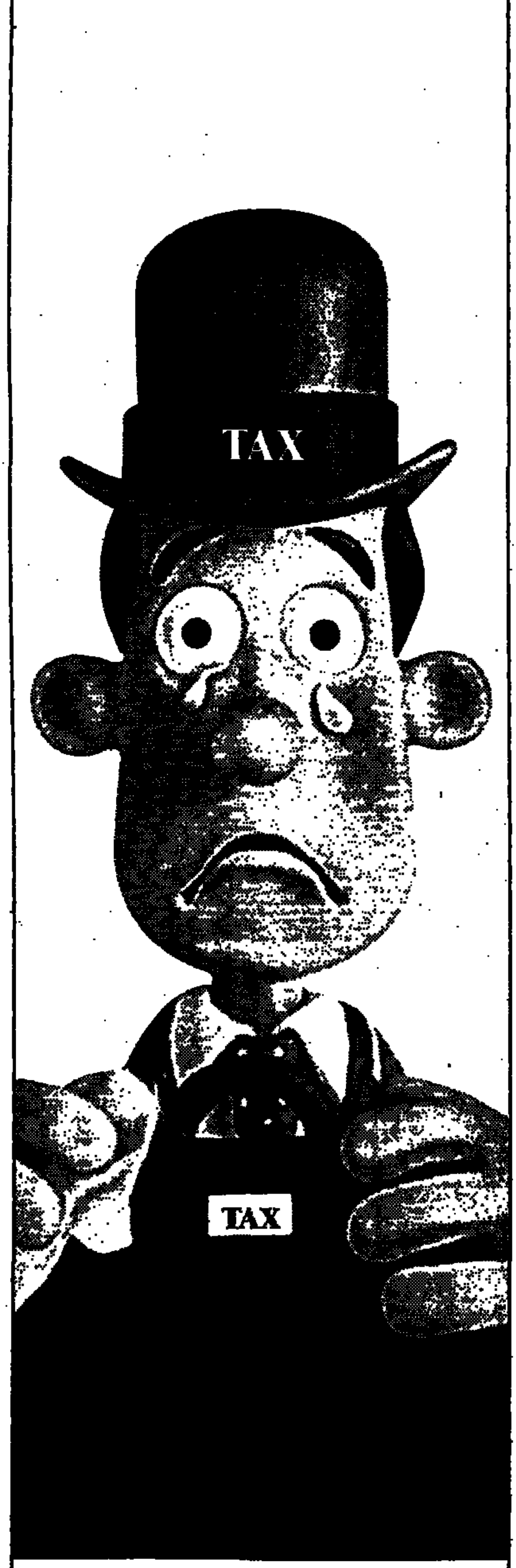

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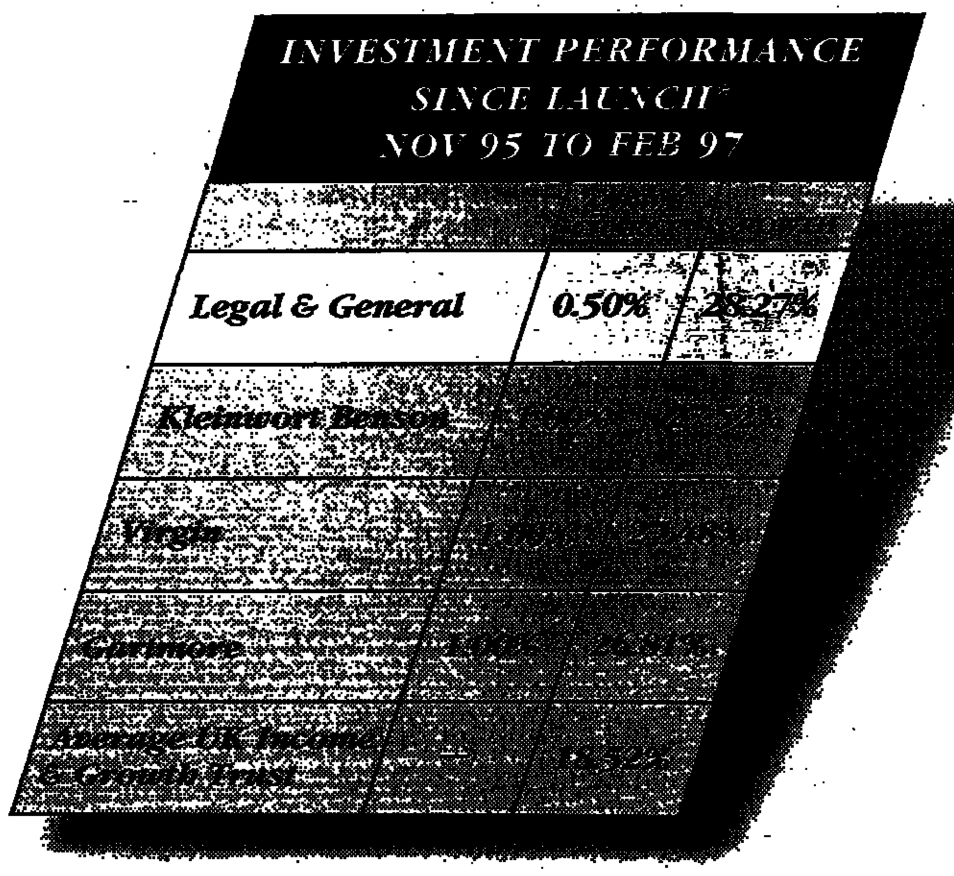

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Norwich Union's £3bn giveaway

Gavin Lumsden explains the details of the latest free shares offer

UPPA

Solid foundations: Norwich Cathedral, the company's symbol

Norwich Union has finally told its 2.9 million qualifying members how many free shares it will give them in return for their backing of its proposed flotation plans in June. It needs a 75 per cent "yes" vote from members for the flotation to go ahead. Along with the circular detailing their individual share allocation, members will have received a postal voting form which should be returned by 11 am on April 17. Alternatively, you can attend the EGM being held the next day at the London Arena.

To qualify for free shares, which will be worth about £3 billion, you have to be either a non-profit holder of term assurance or annuity policies or a with-profits member with savings and pensions policies. NU has not included its 4.1 million holders of household and medical insurance.

The insurer has deemed that 1.1 million non-profit members will get a fixed allocation of 150 shares. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, NU's adviser, estimates the share price would have been between 220p and 265p had the flotation taken place at the end of February. This gives a potential top value of about £400, although if stock markets move sharply in either direction before June the share price could end up substantially different.

However, it is the 1.8 million with-profit policy holders that Norwich Union is rewarding most. They get a fixed allocation of 300 shares, worth up to £800 on Kleinwort's figures, plus a variable allocation depending on the value and length the policy has been held. This will double the amount of shares many members will receive and could leave more than 120,000 with more than 1,200 shares apiece.

If your policy lapses or you die before the EGM Norwich Union will pay a 3 per cent cash bonus.

Holders of single-premium policies under five years will not get the full variable allocation that regular premium policy holders will receive. NU says it wants to reward longer-term customers more than those who have recently paid a large single premium.

The reason with-profit holders get more shares is because, like the members of converting building societies, they are the real owners of Norwich Union until it demutualises. In future Norwich Union plc will take up to one ninth of the money that goes to with-profit policies as bonuses — the extra shares are a form of compensation for this change, although NU says flotation will not affect bonuses adversely.

Qualifying members will also be able to buy more shares in a £1.75 billion rights issue which will occur in May, prior to the flotation in June.

Shares in the rights issue will be sold to qualifying members at a discount, possibly 5-10 per cent off the official book price.

NU has not set an upper limit on its share handout to enable the trustees of large policies, such as pension funds, to distribute the shares among its members. If you are a trustee of a pension scheme you should have received a booklet explaining the options open to you. Not all pension schemes allow shares to be held directly under Revenue rules. But NU has arranged a six-day period in which the shares can be sold and cash distribute among scheme members.

After a recent ruling by the Revenue, there is a 42-day period in which to transfer your free NU shares into a Pep. NU will be launching its own single-company Pep. Into this you can put an unlimited number of free shares plus up to £3,000 of rights issue shares. NU will release details later on how to transfer shares to another Pep provider.

Trustees should bear in mind that they cannot Pep shares on behalf of beneficiaries such as children. It has been widely publicised that only the first named person on joint policies, such as endowment mortgages, will get the free shares. NU says there is no solution to this and it has affected men and women equally. But even if the first named gives the partner some shares, they cannot be transferred into a Pep.

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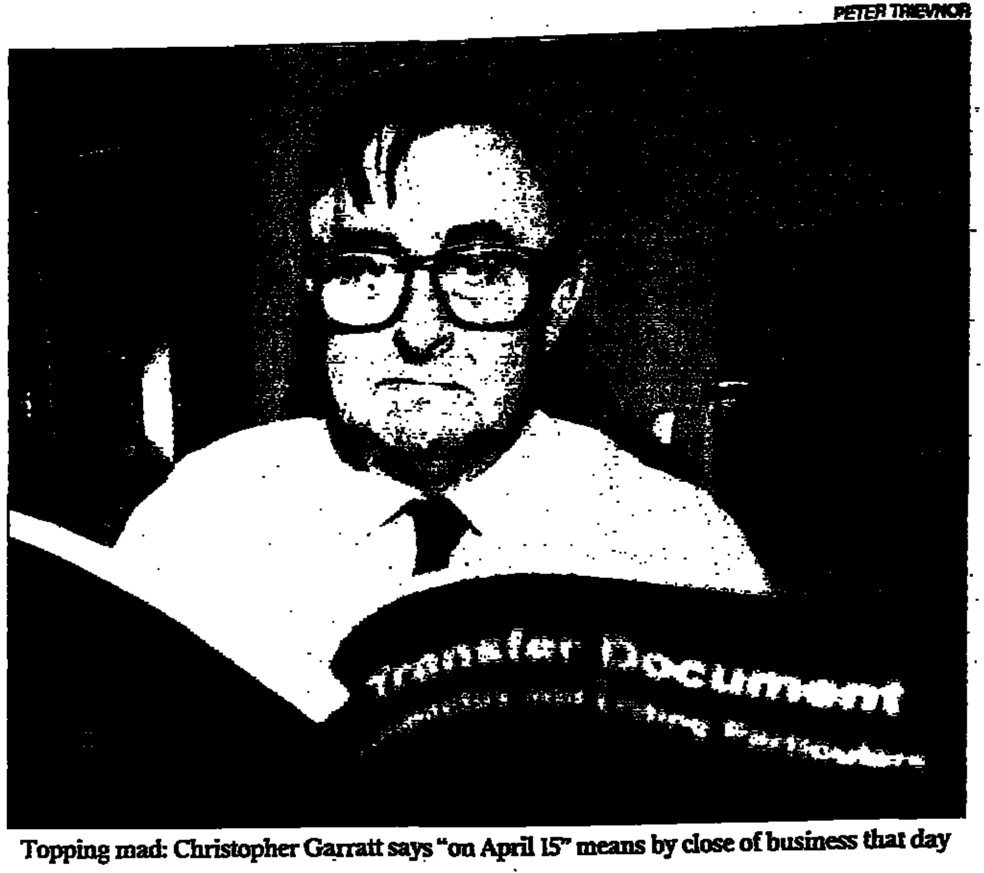
Caroline Merrell and Sara McConnell on society conversions

Double dates and the taxman

SOCIETY WATCH

PETER TREVNOR



Topping mad: Christopher Garratt says "on April 15" means by close of business that day

Many people with the Bristol & West Building Society may have lost out after its takeover because of information about top-up dates. Among those who feel they have been misled is Christopher Garratt, a Hertfordshire reader. He claims he has lost out on £250 because of a circular sent out by Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, the B&W chairman.

The society is currently in the process of being taken over by the Bank of Ireland. The vote to decide on whether the takeover will go ahead takes place next month. To qualify for the cash payout, savers must have had an account with the society since December 31, 1994, and must have topped up their accounts to £100 by the close of business on April 14, 1996.

However, according to documentation received by Mr Garratt from Lord Armstrong, the vital day for topping up was April 15. The documentation said: "Two-year investing members with an account balance of £100 or more on April 15, 1996, will receive at least £500 in cash." Mr Jarratt then received a letter on February 5, stating that the top-up date was in fact April 14. He said: "I immediately queried this by phone and was assured that 14 should read 15 and wrote to John Burke [B&W chief executive] to inform him in writing."

He added: "I was extremely annoyed to receive on February 26, 1997, a reply from Helen Gale [B&W operations officer] stating that the correct date was April 14." Mr Garratt, and many others, topped up accounts on April 15, which excluded him from the minimum payout of £500. He will, however, get £250 worth of B&W preference shares. B&W says the documentation made it clear that the April 15 deadline meant by the beginning of that date, but Mr Garratt said: "Please get Lord Armstrong to tell John Burke and Helen Gale that 'on April 15' means, in plain English, up to close of business on April 15 and not what his information office may later choose to pretend."

The B&W has also antagonised another member, Martin Rand, who found that borrowing members will only be entitled to £250 worth of preference shares. He said: "This is roughly one quarter of the offer to other societies converting this year, and is due to the fact that under the regulations fewer borrowers have to be persuaded to vote than savers. This is cynical and unfair. Many institutions are waiting to buy societies the size of B&W. Borrowers should vote against ... and await an offer that gives it a proper valuation."

Savers with other societies in the process of converting are angry about the way cash bonuses have been allocated. Among them is Mr Jeff Van den Broek from Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. His daughter had less than £100 in her account on November 25, 1994, excluding her from the shares, worth on average £1,200 per qualifying member. Last year, she went to Australia for a year — so decided to deposit £5,000 with the society. She found that topping up the account entitled her to vote but she was excluded from the bonus.

The Halifax said that this was the way it had chosen to construct its scheme. Other societies are treating savers in this category in the same way.

Investors with the former Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society are being wrongly told by the Inland Revenue that they owe capital gains tax on bonuses they received after the society's takeover by Lloyds Bank nearly two years ago.

The Special Commissioner of Income Tax ruled last month that bonuses from deposit accounts should be free of CGT and share account holders should be able to reduce or eliminate CGT bills by indexing the gain. But some local tax offices are still demanding payment of CGT if bonuses push taxpayers over the £6,000 CGT exemption.

John Lavender, a Weekend Money reader in Brighton, paid more than £2,000 in CGT in the 1995-96 tax year after his £8,640 bonus from the C&G pushed him over the limit. But when he wrote to the Revenue after the Commissioner's ruling, his tax office told him: "It is true there was a change of view in respect to chargeability to capital gains tax made by the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society. This, however, related only to mortgage cashback schemes and did not apply to payments on takeovers such as the Cheltenham & Gloucester/Lloyds Bank in 1995".

Neil Denniss, of solicitors Clark Whitehill, which acted for C&G investors in last month's case, said the tax office has confused two quite separate and unrelated rulings.

He said: "The tax office has looked up a ruling which came out about a year ago on mortgage cashbacks." According to Mr Denniss, other tax offices are making similar mistakes. Several investors received demands for CGT payments last December for the 1995-96 tax year, in which they received the bonuses.

The Revenue has until the end of this month to appeal against the Special Commissioner's ruling. But until and unless it makes a successful appeal, investors should not have to pay CGT on bonuses. Anyone who has received a demand because their bonus has carried them over the CGT threshold should lodge an appeal for a refund, which should be returned with interest calculated from the day the tax was paid.

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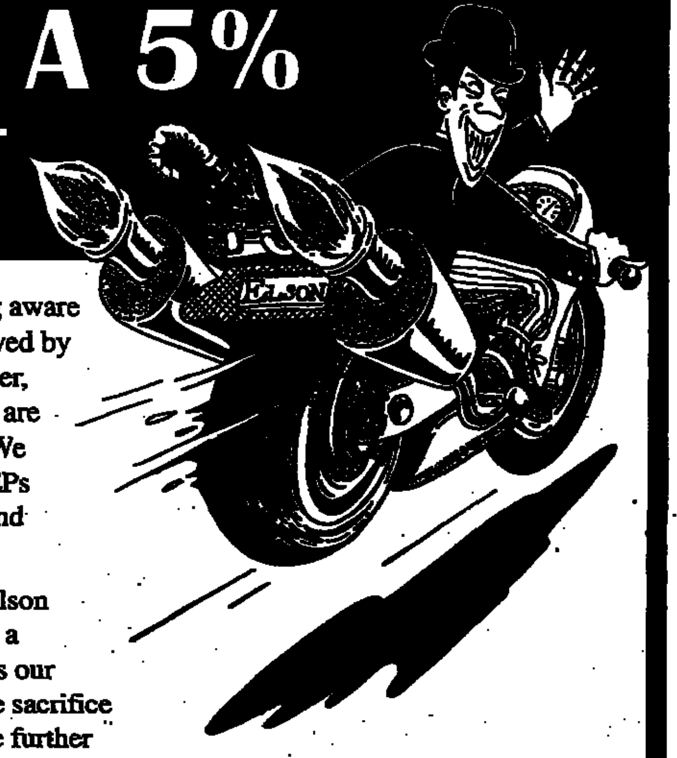

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Don't get locked in a Pep

Caroline Merrell with a timely warning for windfall beneficiaries

SIMON WALKER

Savers don't want their cash locked away any more than a cat wants six months in the slammer

Millions of customers of the four building societies floating on the stock market this year should be wary of taking out the personal equity plans (Peps) offered by the societies as a tax-free shelter for their shares. It has been disclosed this week that if savers and borrowers opt to put their shares into an ordinary Pep offered by the converting society, they will be forced to put the rest of their annual £6,000 allowance in another Pep offered by the society. Building society Peps do not figure in best buy lists prepared by Pep analysts.

Killik & Co, the private client broker, warned building society members: "It is important to remember that an individual can only invest with one Pep plan manager in each tax year." This week, the Alliance & Leicester revealed the Peps it would be offering to the 2.4 million members who will receive free shares in the society next month. The A&L is offering both a growth Pep based on the top 350 companies in the UK index and a self-select Pep. You can put your 250 A&L shares into either plan.

If savers opt for the growth Pep, those who have not used up any of their allowances for this tax year would have to invest the full annual £6,000 with the society. A self-select Pep will allow savers to put investments from other fund managers in the Pep. The A&L opted not to offer savers a single-company Pep. The maximum allowable in this type of scheme is £3,000 pa. If the society had chosen to do so, savers could have been able to put a further £6,000 with the Pep manager of their choice. Other societies going through the process of flotation, such as the Halifax, are planning to offer savers the opportunity of putting their shares in a single-company Pep.

Those Alliance & Leicester borrowers and savers who qualify for the free shares will in the next seven days receive a shareholders pack containing information about the flotation. The share entitlement form must be returned by April 11, to ensure that the free shares are sent out promptly.

The float is expected to go ahead on April 21, when the A&L will issue 582 million shares. The society claims that it wants to keep as many of its former members as shareholders as possible. Its board believes the society has good prospects for growth. Last year, the A&L made pre-tax profits of £306 million. It has 5.5 million customers, 344 branches, 19,000 post office outlets, telephone banking, and a postal savings operation.

The society, which owns Girobank, aims to grow organically and through a cost-cutting exercise. The Alliance & Leicester is not entirely dependent on the mortgage market for its profits. More than a third of its profits come from other sources such as commercial and personal banking. Peter White, Alliance & Leicester group chief executive, said: "We have a clear strategy for growth during the year ahead, building on our successful diversification and we will continue our commitment to developing long-term profitable relationships with our customers." Rob Thomas, UBS building societies analyst, said: "The shares are a good hold. For a couple of reasons. There will be a tremendous shortage of the stock. The tracking funds will have to hold Alliance & Leicester shares and they are 15 per cent of the market. The shares will also be helped by the state of the housing market; despite the society's diversification, it is still reasonably dependent on the housing market, where there is real recovery. The margins will continue to be good." Mr Thomas added: "The election is not really an issue. It is difficult to see any big problems. Labour may increase the regulation of mortages but this should not be a problem. They should be more than happy to comply."

Those who choose to keep their A&L shares can opt to keep them in a nominee account or hold the share certificates themselves.

Act fast to keep CGT at bay

Time is running out if you want to shelter your investment gains from the taxman. This year, the end of the tax year (April 5) falls on a Saturday, which means that bed-and-breakfasting deals — the most common ruse to avoid capital gains tax — have to be started by 3pm on Thursday, April 3 at the latest.

The idea behind bed and breakfasting is to sell shares one day and buy them back again the next to keep your capital gains for the year to less than £6,300. Beyond this limit, gains are subject to 40 per cent tax.

By selling stocks that have done well alongside those that have been less successful is one way of reducing gains. Although stockbrokers should sell the shares at the end of the day and buy first thing the next morning there is always a risk that the market will move, which could incur extra expense.

Time has been made even more precious this year with the introduction of Crest, the computer trading system linking brokers to the Stock Exchange. Traditionally, brokers were able to wrap the buy and sell deals in one automatic transaction. Crest does not allow them to do this and you may be required to hand over your share certificates and complete a transaction form for both deals.

Brokers will advise you on how best to exploit bed and breakfasting, but they charge a proportion of the value of the sale. However, the taxman does get a piece of the action, levying 0.5 per cent stamp duty on the value of the repurchase. For further information on your local stockbroker contact the Association of Private Client and Investment Managers (Apcims) on 0171 247 7080. Advice can be useful because the charges can outweigh the savings. Many brokers offer reduced fees on execution-only deals. For a list of these brokers contact *Moneyfacts* by fax on 0336 400245 (calls cost 45p cheap rate, 50p at other times) or telephone 01692 500765.

If you hold a unit trust outside a Pep you could also be liable to CGT. Many fund managers, such as Lazards, Norwich Union, Schroders, Fidelity Investments and Barclays Unicorn, are discounting their normal charges by up to 4 per cent. However, they are still charging a 5 per cent spread between the buying and selling of the units.

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Legal & General
Investment Management

Adam Jones looks at a big-hitting trust Pep

Treg triumphs in trust top ten table

In the latest of our occasional series focusing on trusts with a large public following, we look at Touche Remnant's European Growth Trust.

After a failed bid for an ailing rival last year, Henderson Investors' TR European Growth (Treg) fund is now attracting attention for better reasons. Treg, valued at about £259 million last week, has seen its share price increase from 107p to 170p in the past year, making it the biggest high-performing fund in the Pep-able investment trust sector (see table).

The rise more than offsets the £938,000 cost — borne by shareholders, not Henderson — of an unsuccessful £500 million bid for the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit), a fund whose dismal performance made it a target for about a dozen rivals.

By contrast, Treg's performance, measured from its debut in September 1990, has beaten the benchmark index, FT/S&P Europe (excluding UK), consistently since 1994. Stephen Peak, Treg's manager from day one, admits the first couple of years were not impressive. In the middle of the launch period, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. The trust was subsequently "marking time", he says. Then gearing (the borrowings of an investment trust) increased significantly and performance improved, though it still trades at a 1.8 per cent discount to net asset value.

One of the big earners has been Scandinavia. Treg works on a "bottom up" basis, that is, deciding to invest more on the merits of individual companies than on sector trends. The general conditions in Nordic countries in the early Nineties have been attractive, especially for pickers of small companies like Treg.

Mr Peak says the devaluation of the Swedish krona in 1992 provided many opportunities to find value in under-researched small companies. At the end of June 1995, a third of the portfolio was in Sweden. That figure has decreased with profit-taking and was less than 20 per cent last week.

Kalmar Industries, a forklift truck firm which formed the biggest holding in June 1996, has been usurped by a Norwegian leather manufacturer and a Spanish restaurant company.

Mr Peak describes TelePizza as a Spanish version of PizzaExpress. Treg has 3.9 per cent of its portfolio invested.

He says: "Spain hasn't featured very largely in our portfolio." Sol Melia, a hotel management company, is also helping to put that right, accounting for 2.1 per cent of Treg's holdings last week.

The normal limit for the size of any one investment is 5 per cent of the trust's net assets, although it has touched 8 per cent. Mr Peak says the fund's policy on unquoted companies is "tough". He says it is not allowed to invest more than 15 per cent in unquoteds, while the largest exposure so far has been about 11 per cent, including 8 per cent in a company preparing for flotation.

TOP TEN UNIT TRUST PEP FUNDS

Offer-to-Bid. Gross Income Reinvested at Pay Date. Closing prices as at February 28, 1997

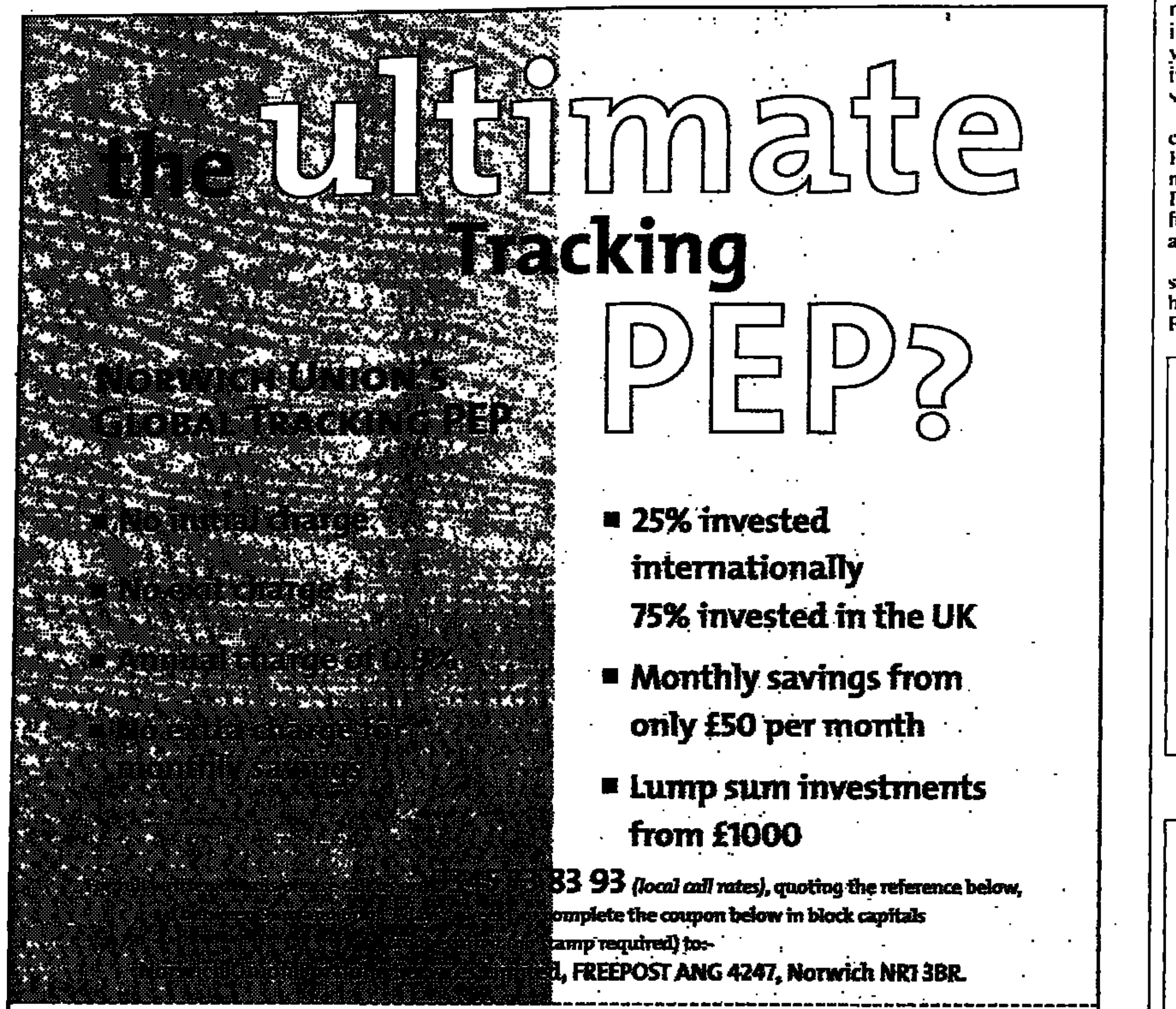
	Fund	Fund Size £m	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Sector
1	Jupiter Income	389.69	3634.04	5243.67	10275.67	UK Eqty Incme
2	Hill Samuel UK Emerging Co's	227.31	3627.08	4273.18	10100.93	UK Smllr Co's
3	Jupiter European	78.51	3807.51	5589.52	9169.33	Europe
4	Old Mutual European	173.02	3580.33	4324.38	9115.46	Europe
5	BWD UK Smaller Co's	9.27	3859.18	4426.63	8948.31	UK Smllr Co's
6	Jupiter UK Growth	79.21	3585.44	5205.08	8800.03	UK Growth
7	Invesco European Growth	104.71	3659.17	5009.56	8737.32	Europe
8	Thornton UK Smaller Companies	94.68	3651.67	4020.85	8648.77	UK Smllr Co's
9	Henderson European Value	174.25	3465.69	4412.65	8301.62	Europe
10	Fidelity Recovery	137.33	3432.16	3953.02	8293.07	UK Growth

Tabular information supplied by Moneyfacts

TOP TEN INVESTMENT TRUST PEP FUNDS

Close-to-close. Gross Income Reinvested at Pay Date. Closing prices as at February 28, 1997

	Fund	Fund Size £m	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Sector
1	Invesco Eng & Intl	119.83	3760.30	5598.25	17136.04	Smllr Co's
2	Foreign & Colonial Enterprise	133.01	4761.68	5985.45	14517.92	Venture & Develop Cap
3	TR European Growth	249.15	4622.32	6118.22	12215.87	Continental Europe
4	Dunedin Enterprise	63.57	4423.57	6327.65	11531.03	Venture & Develop Cap
5	Henderson Strata	84.97	3516.47	5199.87	9512.57	Smllr Co's
6	Finsbury Trust	18.72	3781.97	4550.21	8971.84	UK General
7	Gartmore European	42.64	3617.85	4410.44	8387.04	Continental Europe
8	Fidelity Euro Values	141.89	3629.85	4357.45	8193.66	Continental Europe
9	Mercury Keyston	128.30	3504.85	4676.69	8082.99	UK General
10	Morgan Grenfell Equity Income	65.31	3469.36	4138.39	7983.43	UK Income Growth



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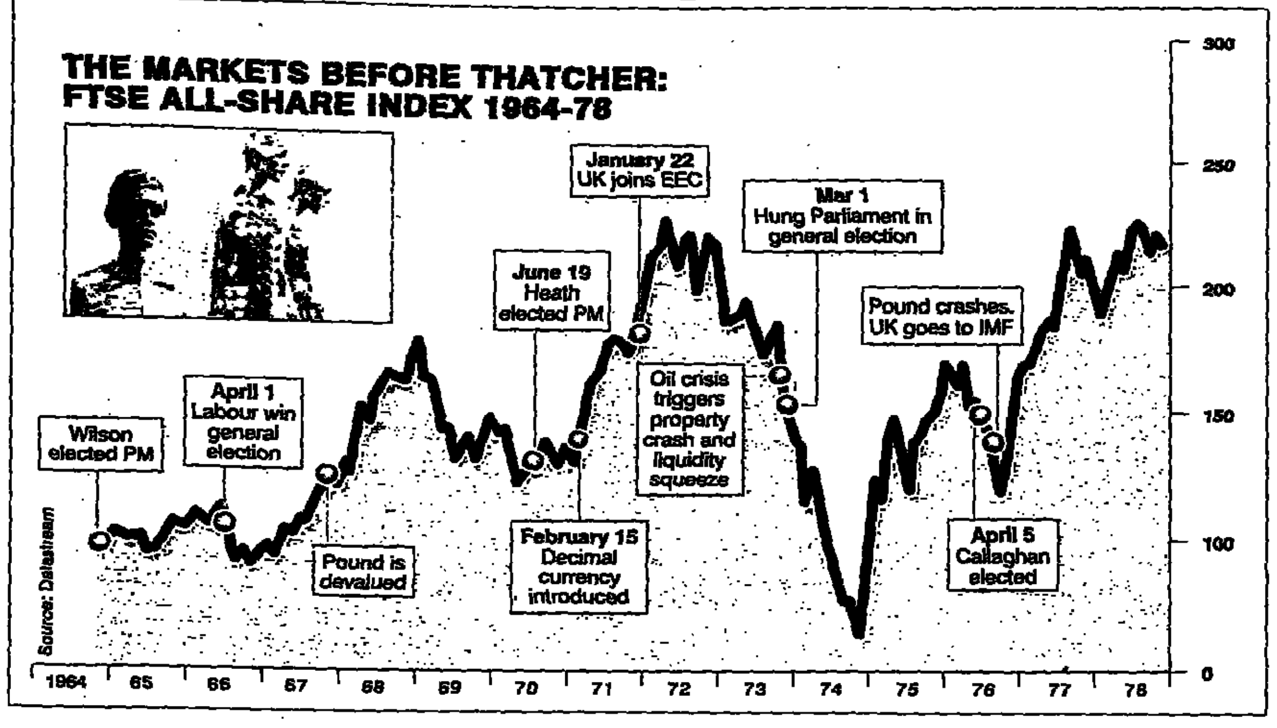
Caroline Merrell charts the ups and downs of the markets under different parties in the past 30 years

Economy feels full force of politics



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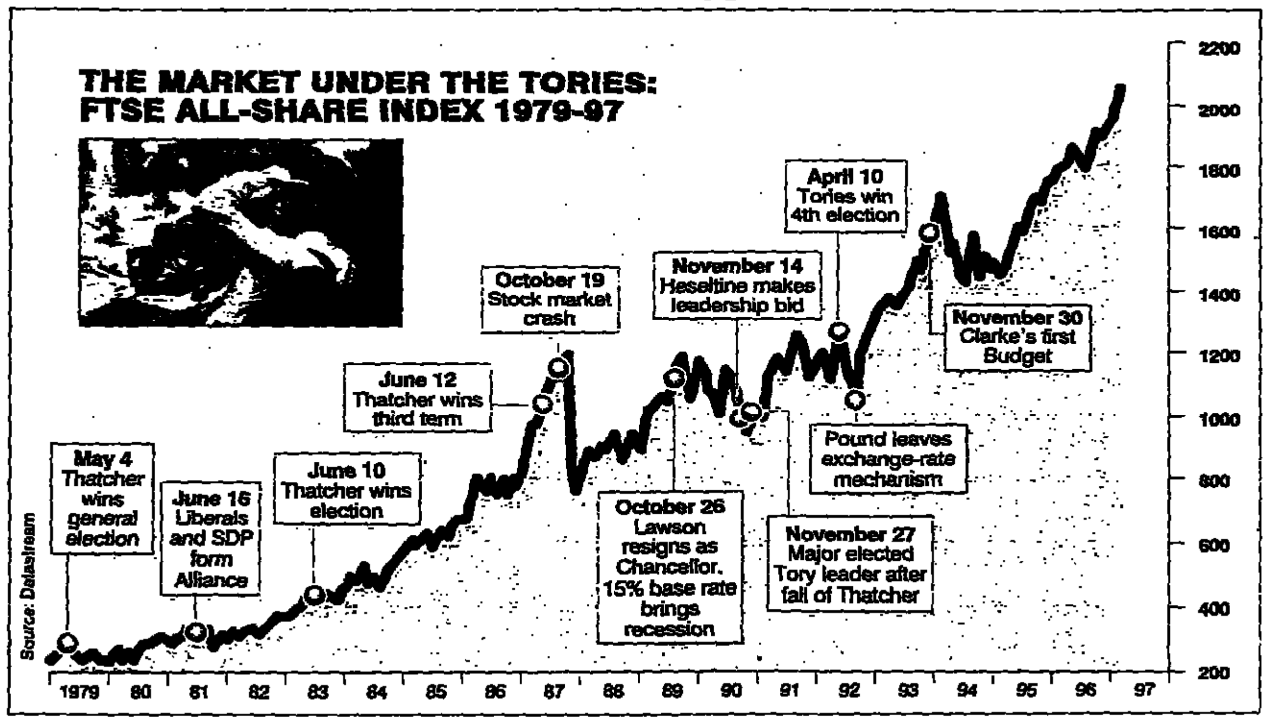

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Over the past 30 years, the UK stock market has veered from the extreme troughs caused by the oil price crisis in 1974 to the extreme peaks that accompanied deregulation of the stock market in 1987.

When Harold Wilson was re-elected as Prime Minister with a 110-seat majority in 1966, base rates were 6 per cent, income tax rates were around 38 per cent and there were 13 French francs and $2.79 to the pound.

Despite the overwhelming endorsement of the country, the Labour Government spent the next four years attempting to curb the rising tide of industrial disorder and union power. At the end of 1967 the pound was devalued to $2.40 and bank base rates were raised to 8 per cent. Inflation was also a big problem. At the beginning of 1968 the Government brought in a series of drastic cuts in expenditure and attempted to produce a deflationary Budget. Despite economic problems, it looked certain that Labour would win the election again in 1970. The shock Conservative win by Edward Heath, with a majority of just 43 seats, was greeted favourably by the markets.

However, the following four years were marked by tremendous economic upheaval. Heath's Chancellor, Tony Barber, made a dash for growth by releasing vast quantities of credit into the economy. This immediately proved to be a trigger for an increase in the inflation rate — house prices doubled and wage settlements hit 9 per cent. In 1973 the oil price crises struck — Heath attempted to freeze wages and prices, which provoked even more antagonism and another strike. Industry was put on a three-day week and the All-share index collapsed to 156. An election was called, and Wilson ended up back in No 10.

Government spending immediately began to soar, inflation reached 27 per cent and the pound crashed. Wilson resigned and was replaced by James Callaghan, whose first action was to call in the IMF for $3.9 billion of standby credit. By the middle of 1978 the Government began to look precarious and industrial and economic crisis continued — it was the "Winter of Discontent".

On May 4, 1979, Margaret Thatcher was elected Prime Minister. She immediately introduced a set of austere measures which drove the economy into a deep depression. Base rates stood at 17 per cent, while inflation reached 20 per cent. Your pound bought $2.32 or 9.82 francs, and more than 7 per cent of the working population was unemployed.

Tighter monetary policy was not popular and the Tories looked unlikely to be voted in again. However, Mrs Thatcher was saved by a military skirmish in a distant country. Victory in the Falklands in 1982 ensured that the Conservatives won by a landslide in 1983. With a huge majority, they were able to press ahead with radical privatisation programmes, restructuring of the economy and a breakdown of union power.

Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, kicked off the new term of office with a £500 million cut in goverment spending, inflation had now fallen to 5.2 per cent and base rates were at 9 per cent. The economy was still in a deep recession.

The Goverment sold off British Gas, TSB, British Aerospace, British Steel and British Telecom in quick succession. Deregulation of the Stock Exchange — Big Bang — bought millions of new investors to the stock market. Unfortunately, in October 1987 the market fell 10 per cent in just one day. The fall precipitated another recession, with falls in house prices and rises in interest rates. In 1989 rates peaked at 15 per cent and Lawson resigned, followed shortly by Mrs Thatcher.

John Major's Government has continued to press for low inflation and low interest rates. Inflation has fallen from 5.1 per cent in 1990, to around 3 per cent today.

What of the future? Both parties are committed to keeping down inflation and interest rates. Both also want to encourage share ownership as a method of saving. For instance, Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is unequivocal about the future for personal equity plans (Peps) — the savings vehicle introduced by Lord Lawson ten years ago. He said: "We would ask the public to beware of advisers saying buy now while stocks last. We support Peps and tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas)."

The Conservative Party wants Peps and Tessas to continue to thrive. The Liberal Democrats would modify both schemes.

Holiday season throws up currency Visa teaser

Travellers planning to buy foreign currency with a Lloyds, Barclays or TSB Visa debit card this Easter have two unedifying choices. Either they go to their own banks, which are not offering the most competitive exchange rates, or they go elsewhere and get a better rate of exchange but pay a "cash handling charge" of 1.5 per cent on top of foreign currency commission.

By contrast, customers of Midland, NatWest and First Direct, who have Switch debit cards, will not have to pay extra for using their cards to buy currency if they choose not to go to their own bank.

One Weekend Money reader who is a Lloyds customer, wanted to buy £500 of Portuguese escudos. But she was not satisfied with Lloyds's exchange rate, which was 263 escudos to the pound at the time. Lloyds also levies a commission of 2 per cent, with a minimum payment of £3. On £500, the commission would work out at £10.

American Express was not only offering a better rate of 267 escudos to the pound, but it also charges a flat-rate commission of £2. However, American Express explained that Lloyds would levy a charge of 1.5 per cent of the value of the exchanged funds if she used her Lloyds Visa debit card. This would work out at £7.50 on £500, making the American Express deal much less attractive.

The only way to avoid the Lloyds charge and still get the benefit of the American Express deal was to pay by cash or cheque. American Express would not accept a cheque for more than £100 as this was the maximum guaranteed by the Lloyds card.

Banks say they levy the charge because they count such transactions as cash advances. The system is set up in such a way that every player in the transactional chain gets a small cut of the charge, including the bank issuing the card, the bank processing the transaction and Visa, which runs the processing network.

Barclays says: "We are trying to work with Visa towards getting foreign currency considered more like a product, like paying for goods in a shop with a debit card."

Lloyds confirms there are no charges for buying currency at Lloyds or TSB, now part of Lloyds, with a Lloyds or TSB card. Customers of one bank will not be charged for buying foreign currency at the other.

NatWest, whose customers have Switch debit cards and do not have to pay for the privilege of buying foreign currency at another bank, says using Switch saved the bank paperwork and customers time.

SARA MCCONNELL

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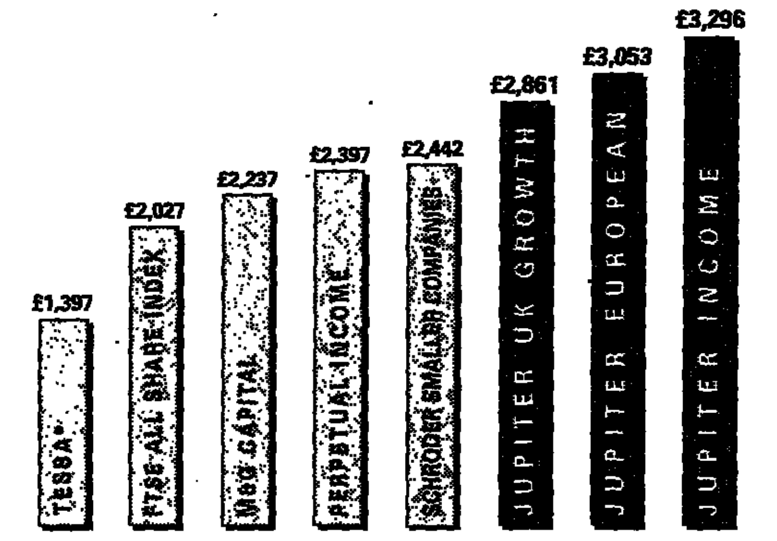

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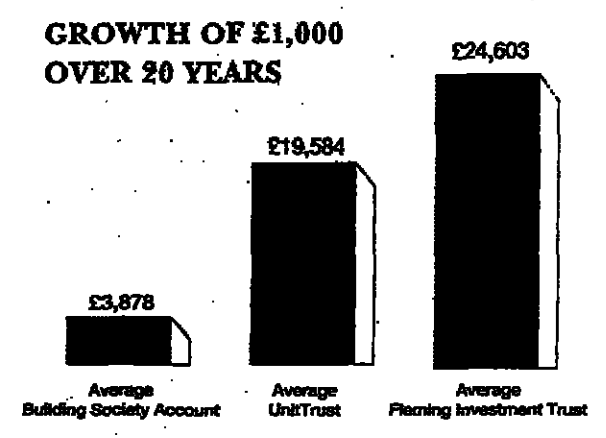

Source: Micropal, figures to 1st February 1997, net income reinvested.

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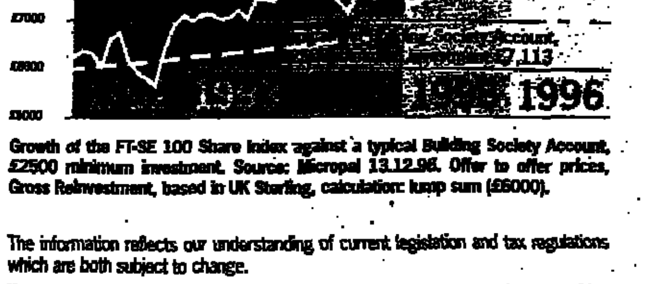

Growth of the FT-SE 100 Share Index against a typical Building Society Account, £2500 minimum investment. Source: Micropal 13.12.96. Offer to offer prices, Gross Reinvestment, based in UK Sterling, calculation: lump sum (£6000).

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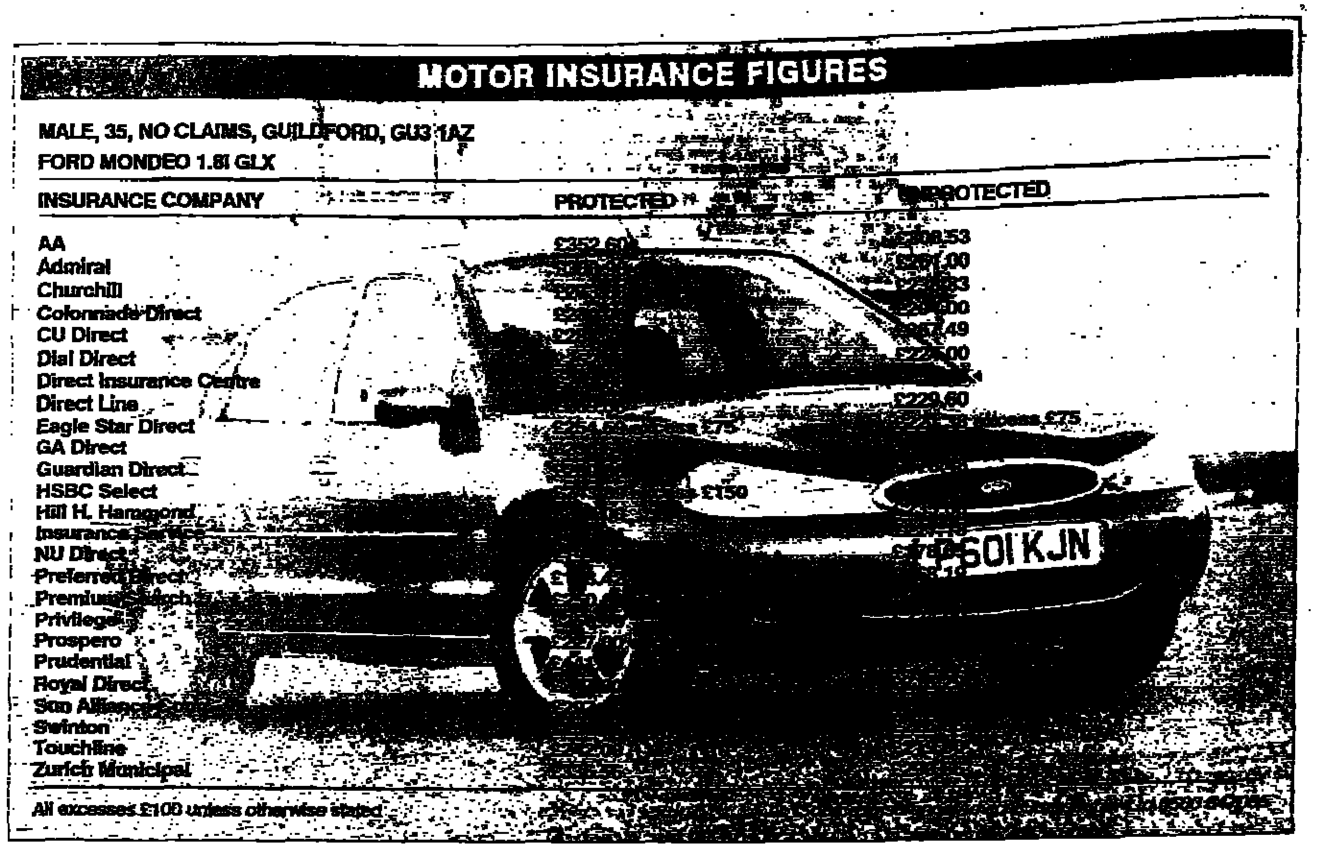
Marianne Curphey on a direct insurer's debut

Hastings may find the beach crowded



MOTOR INSURANCE FIGURES

MALE, 35, NO CLAIMS, GUILDFORD, GU3 1AZ
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INSURANCE COMPANY	PROTECTED	UNPROTECTED
AA	£352.60	£308.53
Admiral	[illegible]	[illegible]
Churchill	[illegible]	[illegible]
Colonnade Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
CU Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dial Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
Direct Insurance Centre	[illegible]	[illegible]
Direct Line	[illegible]	£229.60
Eagle Star Direct	[illegible] excess £75	[illegible] excess £75
GA Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
Guardian Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
HSBC Select	[illegible] £150	[illegible]
Hill H. Hammond	[illegible]	[illegible]
Insurance Service	[illegible]	[illegible]
NU Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
Preferred Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
Premium Search	[illegible]	[illegible]
Privilege	[illegible]	[illegible]
Prospero	[illegible]	[illegible]
Prudential	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal Direct	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sun Alliance	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swinton	[illegible]	[illegible]
Touchline	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich Municipal	[illegible]	[illegible]

All excesses £100 unless otherwise stated

The motor insurance market may be overcrowded and competitive but there are still investors willing to join the fray. This week a Japanese company was the latest to set up a direct operation in the hope of breaking even within three years with a book of 250,000 customers.

Chiyoda, based in Tokyo, has launched Hastings Direct into a marketplace already crowded with more than 50 other direct insurers battling for market share and critical mass. But the industry is currently plagued by falling premium rates and rising claims and some of the biggest names in general insurance in the UK have admitted they are finding the experience painful. Analysts have questioned whether there is room for another telephone insurer in a saturated market.

AA Insurance Services has already predicted that smaller direct insurers will merge or be taken over this year because many of them are having to write business at a loss in order to attract new customers. Composite insurers say they are hoping for modest rises but are unsure whether new rates will stick.

Hastings Direct is based in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, and officially began trading on Wednesday. The project has the blessing of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Hiroaki Fujii, the Japanese Ambassador, who believe the new company could help to regenerate an area struggling with rising unemployment. Hastings Direct aims to write £75 million of business and have 250,000 policyholders by the end of the decade. It expects to make a small profit on 65,000 customers this year.

The move is likely to increase competition and drive motor premiums further downwards at a time when insurers are desperate to put prices up. However, Jerry Kendall, managing director of Hastings Direct, said: "We believe the motor market will grow from 16 million to 20 million by 2000 and that the proportion of people buying direct insurance will shift from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the total market. This is the right time to enter the market. Rates are showing signs of moving upwards and there is potential for growth in private motor provision."

Next month insurers will start to pass on the increase in insurance premium tax to their customers. The increase, introduced by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in last November's Budget, applies from April and means that insurance premium tax will more than double from 2 per cent to 4.5 per cent. The increase means a driver with a £340 policy will pay an extra £13.40 on renewal of his premium, before any other costs are added.

Rebecca Hadley, of AA Insurance Services, said most insurers were likely to add the extra tax to premiums rather than try to absorb the cost themselves. This is because margins on motor insurance are currently extremely thin, claims are rising, and competition in the motor market is so fierce that some small insurers are writing business at a loss.

Ms Hadley said that although insurers are doing their best to raise the rates they charge motorists, the actual price paid is still going down. She said: "We use a panel of 20 insurers and if a customer receives a renewal notice where the price has been increased, he will shop around for a better deal. Insurers are finding that instead of turning every four telephone calls into a sale, they are only achieving sales every six calls on average. Some of the smaller insurers, particularly those that have entered the direct market and have yet to achieve critical mass, cannot afford to lose market share."

She believes that although the big, well-capitalised companies with more than 500,000 customers on their books will be able to ride out the storm, there will be mergers and acquisitions among the smaller ones which cannot survive in such tough market conditions.

"The market will continue to be extremely volatile. Some of the larger insurers may decide to put up prices and be sanguine about the loss of business which will result. But the smaller insurers cannot be so choosy, and customers may find they are choosing between a well-known name and a relatively unknown newcomer, when they are comparing prices."

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Gavin Lumsden on the future of international trusts

The top hats take a holiday abroad

International investment trusts are the great-grandparents of the savings industry, dating back to the last century. In an early example of a corporate mission statement the Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust was launched in 1868 with the aim of providing "investors of moderate means the same advantages as the large capitalists in diminishing the risk of foreign and colonial stocks by spreading the investment over a number of stocks".

Today, private investors' need for international diversification remains as strong as ever and the sector commands a massive £18 billion of assets. But there are fears that the trusts are running out of steam and may not live to see the new millennium.

Despite the laudability of their original intentions, the 45 trusts that followed Foreign & Colonial never really kept out the traditional City investors, the 'top hat brigade'. In the last century the excellent returns the trusts achieved in the then emerging US markets proved too attractive to the City institutions.

However, the predominance of the institutions is a problem. The capitalists have found other ways of gaining overseas exposure. Although they still own 40-70 per cent of the shares in international investment trusts, they are long-term sellers of them. This has blighted prices, giving shares an undeserved 15 per cent discount to net asset value.

An indication of their attitude was shown last week when the British Coal Board pension fund, managed by Goldman Sachs, pulled its massive 85 per cent stake in the British Investment Trust, forcing Edinburgh Fund Managers to propose turning the rump into a unit trust.

With BIT biting the dust, this week's announcement that Michael Hart, F&C's venerable manager, was retiring and handing the reins to his longstanding number two, Jeremy Tigue, seemed almost symbolic. Like many trusts in the sector, Foreign & Colonial has had a horrid time in the past year as a rampant sterling has cut a swath through its overseas returns. Was it time for the rest of the sector to shuffle off to the elephants' graveyard or face extinction from corporate hunters?

Not at all, say the sector's defenders. Indeed, a look at the performance figures over five and ten years shows it is foolish to write off international trusts just yet. Since 1992 the average international capital trust has more than doubled a £1,000 lump sum to £2,159, while international general funds (those that combine capital and income growth) have returned £2,029. Since 1987 these figures rise to £2,676 and £3,158 respectively. This makes them ideal for pensions funding as most have ultra-low annual management fees of 0.3 to 0.5 per cent. According to BZW Securities, the investment arm of Barclays Bank, international trusts invest in similar assets to UK pension funds — about 50 per cent in UK equities — but generate superior annual returns: 15.4 per cent for international general funds, 1.3 per cent higher than pension funds. In part, this is because they can borrow money to invest (gear up).

TRUST WATCH

This large UK weighting also means that many of the trusts are fully Pepable. James de Sausmarez, retail managing director of Hendersons Investors, says: "International investment trusts are ideal for first-time investors and ideal as core holdings in portfolios." However, Andrew Bell, head of investment trust research at BZW, says international trusts need rejuvenating with a clearer sense of purpose. Private investors are naturally suspicious of unclear objectives, he says. Discounts would disappear if trusts adopted benchmarks so that investors understood what they were buying. "Some of the funds go for income, some for growth, some are closet index trackers while others are more buccaneering in their search for returns. All these approaches are fine but should be made clearer to investors."

Fortunately, there are trusts already doing this. BZW has awarded five stars to international trusts with clear benchmarks, good track records and sufficient resources for growth. For savers looking for long-term, cautious investments including the UK it recommends Brunner, Scottish Mortgage, Bankers, Electric & General and Witan. Apart from Bankers, these are all fully Pepable.

Brunner is still 30 per cent owned by the family which set it up in the 1920s, but managed by Kleinwort Benson. Over five years its total return to investors has been 131.2 per cent, nearly 30 per cent better than its benchmark. Scottish Mortgage, managed by Baillie Gifford, is more biased to capital growth but has a similar performance.

The last three are all managed by Henderson Investors but take different approaches: Bankers, established by seven bankers in 1888, has successfully beaten the FT-SE all-share and grown dividends every year, while Electric & General focuses on capital growth and Witan combines growth and income.

Alliance, which takes a quasi-tracking approach, gets a good four-star rating, but with shares priced at £22 each investors may want to make use of its Pep and savings scheme. Alliance is introducing a self-invested personal pension later this year. For non-UK funds, Kleinwort Overseas and Fleming Overseas are an option. Higher-risk good performers are British Empire Securities and RIT Capital Partners, which focuses on international unquoted companies.

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Investors Chronicle 24th January 1997

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The Standard Life Assurance Company Annual General Meeting

The 171st Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 22 April 1997 at 2.30pm.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote. A proxy need not be a member.

By order of the Board of Directors
Alan R Forbes
Secretary
Edinburgh, 20 March 1997

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the agenda, by writing to the Customer Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.

STANDARD LIFE

هكذا من الأصل

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED

Helen Pridham on the relative risks of investments on offer

The windfall options

Putting something away for a rainy day is a matter of good judgment

INVESTORS who have been locked into building societies such as the Halifax and the Woolwich, waiting for the end of demutualisation, are at last regaining their freedom.

Although you must maintain membership of your society until conversion actually takes place in order to qualify for shares, a minimal deposit will usually suffice if you can find a better home for most of your savings elsewhere.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at UBS, says that around 15 per cent to 20 per cent of savings with the converting societies are likely to be removed within a few months. Abbey National estimates £10 billion will move in search of better rates.

With so much money at stake, a war of words has broken out between mutual building societies and their converting rivals. This week Bradford & Bingley announced comprehensive increases in its savings rates as part of a doubling of members' benefits to £100 million this year. John Wrigglesworth, the society's marketing director, branded the converters as "mutants" saying: "If they try to follow us down the path of offering better products they will alienate their new City masters. If they push profits up to please them they will lose customers - they really are in a very difficult position."

Halifax and Alliance & Leicester dismissed this, while Northern Rock's executive director, Adam Applegarth, slammed B&B for its uncompetitive postal rates.

The Nationwide, another committed mutual, has launched a "Savings Challenge" to encourage investors with converting building societies to switch to its accounts. Meanwhile, managers of personal equity plans (Peps) are gearing up to attract a tidal wave of around 16 million new shareholders with shares worth some £20 billion.

If you do not decide to sell your free shares right away, they can be transferred straight into a Pep. The type of plan should be chosen with care. Mr Thomas expects about 20 per cent of shareholders to sell their shares within the first few months, but says investors should think long and hard before doing this. He said: "There will be a big demand from institutional investors for these shares for some years to come."

Simon Philip, personal financial planning director at Binder Hamlyn, accountants, advised: "The key factors to consider are what you want to use the money for and whether you have an appetite for investment risk. This will help to filter out certain products straight away."

Main options in different risk categories are:

LOW RISK

■ **Bank and building society accounts:** The Halifax has recently announced some improvements to its accounts, but Christine Bayliss, investment editor of *Moneyfacts*, said: "The best rates are currently to be obtained from postal accounts and direct banking operations. A high street account is convenient, but it is convenience at a price. Even if you want to use your account for paying bills, you will normally have time to get the money from a postal account."

The Portman Building Society's Instant Access postal account, for example, is currently paying 4.7 per cent on deposits of £500 or more. For anything less than £5,000 the best rate at the moment is offered by the newly launched Sainsbury's Bank, which is paying 5.75 per cent on deposits starting at £1.

■ **Tessas:** Worth considering if you have not got one already. Rates are often higher than they would be in ordinary accounts and the interest is tax-free if you leave your capital untouched for five years.

■ **National Savings:** National Savings Certificates are among the most traditional tax shelters. The current 43rd Issue Certificates are paying a guaranteed 5.35 per cent tax-free over the next five years on investments of £100 to £10,000. Many pundits are predicting that interest rates could increase in the coming months, so you might regret locking into fixed rates now. You could consider putting some money into Premium Bonds. The minimum investment is £100 and you could win £1 million in the monthly draw without losing your stake.

MEDIUM RISK

■ **Corporate Bond Peps:** These invest in fixed-interest securities and other bonds of established stock market companies, rather than their equity shares. They typically pay a high quarterly income — returns of around 7 per cent are currently available — which is completely tax-free. Minimum investment normally starts at around £1,000. If you do not need an immediate income, these are not appropriate.

■ **With-profits Bonds:** These bonds are issued by insurance companies and are often described as a halfway house between cash and shares.

They invest in a mixture of shares, property, fixed interest and cash. Profits are credited to your investment gradually in the form of regular bonuses, which can also be taken as income. The capital value is relatively secure. However, with-profits bonuses have been falling in recent years and it is not clear how well these bonds will perform in the future. Leading providers include the Prudential and Norwich Union.

■ **Guaranteed Equity Bonds:** Sold mainly by banks and building societies, these appear to offer the best of both worlds. They promise growth linked to any increase in the stock market over a five-year term, or your money back plus a minimum return if the market disappoints. However, they can be expensive and inflexible.

HIGHER RISK

■ **Personal Equity Plans (Peps):** You are only allowed to invest up to £6,000 in a general Pep in any one tax year and up to £3,000 in a single company Pep. Although you can normally get at your money any time, a Pep is best suitable for money you are prepared to leave invested for around five years. The choice of Peps is vast. There are now more than 1,000 available from more than 200 plan managers.

A good core holding for many investors is an index tracker Pep, which aims to perform in line with the FT all-share index. Low-cost plans are offered by Legal & General and Virgin Direct. Some of the best results, however, are produced by active funds from managers such as Fidelity, Perpetual, Credit Suisse and Gartmore. Minimum investment in Peps normally starts at £1,000.

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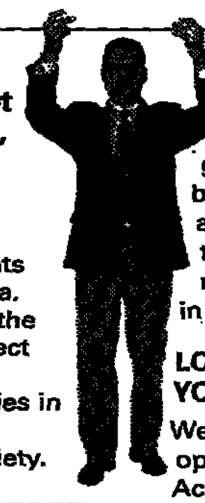

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£10,000 +	6.50%	6.40%	6.30%
£5,000 +	6.40%	6.30%	6.20%
£2,500 +	6.20%	6.10%	6.00%
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WEEKEND

A simple way to reduce pension costs

From Mr J. Trayner

Sir, As a chartered insurance practitioner, with a special interest in pension reform, I read your articles on pension charges with great interest.

One of the main reasons why costs have not reduced is the system for disclosing insurance company administration charges to the buyer. The main source of information about these charges is the key features document, given to potential policyholders. For all practical purposes it is a totally meaningless document. Paradoxically, this is due to improvements in most companies' products. The buyer is no longer locked into a fixed term plan but is able to increase, decrease or suspend their payments, make additional single payments and take the pension at different times between 50 and 75.

Unfortunately, the key features document does not recognise this new flexibility. It works on the basis that someone will pay say, £100 a month for the entire term. I suggest a simpler approach, that recognises that someone investing in a personal pension is effectively buying the fund management expertise of the insurance company. This means potential customers need to know two things: the charge for investing the money in the first place and the charge for maintaining the plan.

Companies would have to disclose how much of each contribution was actually invested. If companies were to present their initial charges in this way, you would not need to be an actuary to see that a company that invests £95 is giving better value than one investing £85. The second piece of information would cover the maintenance costs of the plan. This is really no different from knowing how much British Gas would charge you for maintaining your central heating system.

Each year the plan holder would get a statement of the value of the fund together with how much the company has charged for running it during the previous year. This simpler presentation could encourage companies to offer special low-cost deals to customers wishing to transfer pensions from other companies. Companies would be under pressure to keep their annual charges low if they knew their customers could take their money elsewhere.

An even more radical suggestion is to do away completely with any projection of the final fund or pension. This is because these are based on so many unknown factors; rates of return, annuity rates, that they are effectively meaningless.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TRAYNER,
21 Audley Close,
St Ives,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire.

An investment that was a very little earner

From Mr R. Allen

Sir, Referring to your article (Turning Ernie into a nice little earner, March 8) and, in particular, the final paragraph, I hold a number of Premium Bonds that were purchased in 1956, 1960 and 1963 that have never won a prize.

It is obviously distressing to learn, therefore, that the prize of £1 million that was awarded this month was won on a Premium Bond that was purchased as recently as only last January.

A couple of years ago, I wrote to the Director of Savings asking whether he would consider arranging a supplementary draw once or twice a year to include only all those Premium Bonds that have been held, say, for 20 years without ever winning a single prize.

Sadly I was advised by one of his subordinates that this scheme would be impossible to implement.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT ALLEN,
45 Gefferys House,
London Road,
Hook,
Hampshire.

From Mr F.R. Yule

Sir, Did anyone notice that out of the 156 large Premium Bond prizes won in March only two went to bondholders in Scotland?

I know we comprise only about 10 per cent of the population and our reputation with money could be a reason for being wary of a computer, but surely the ratio of Scottish investors to the rest is not this low?

Yours faithfully,
FRANK YULE,
1 The Orchard,
7 Tipperlinn Road,
Edinburgh.

Scots take their revenge

From Mr A.V. Purnell

Sir, I know clients are more likely to believe and trust a Scottish voice when calling a telephone helpline but I should like to point out that Britannia Life is exploiting this. It has a backlog of about three to four weeks in dealing with maturity of endowment policies. Disgruntled policyholders like me are told "we know the service we are providing is not good enough" and then promised it will do all it can to speed sending the cheque but "it often takes four days for first-class post from Glasgow to reach English addresses".

In the meantime, the interest due on my mortgage still has to be paid. If I can make 240 premium payments on time it seems unfair that they cannot make one payment on time with the benefit of 20 years' notice! Is it always this difficult to get money out of the Scots?

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY V. PURNELL,
Ferndale Cottage,
Laddingford, Kent.

B&W 'bought on the cheap'?

From Dr S. J. Jennings

Sir, If the Bank of Ireland takes over the Bristol and West Building Society, borrowers will only qualify for 250 preference shares worth £250 — while investors with relatively small sums in their accounts, will get £250 — or £500 cash — plus bonuses, depending on their balances.

As a borrower of over 20 years, never in arrears, I feel that I have contributed significantly to the value of the B&W and that this is not sufficiently recognised. For the takeover to proceed, a majority of borrowers, independently of investors, must vote in favour.

My disquiet was increased on reading that Northern Rock investors and borrowers are to be rewarded with shares worth £1,390 on flotation.

Are B&W members being bought out too cheaply?

Yours faithfully,
DR S. JENNINGS,
The Moathouse,
Church Street,
Blackmore, Essex.

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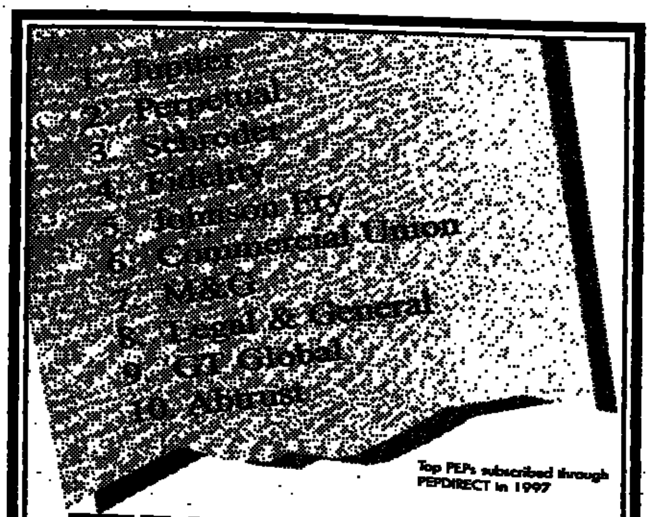
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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Tax guides by the shelf-full

The *Lloyds Bank Tax Guide* has been rewritten for 1997 to assist the nine million people facing the self-assessment challenge. Each part of the tax form is handled separately, and is designed to make the task as painless as possible. Included are 75 tax-saving ideas, advice on how to deal with your tax inspector and avoid excessive fines, plus hints on how to minimise your tax bill. Published by Profile Books Ltd on April 3, priced £7.99.

If you are looking to invest more than £100,000, a new book written by Andrew Locke and Ian Locke sets out the options available for secure and profitable investment over a five-year term. The book covers the traditional investment choices, as well as alternative investments such as art and antiques. Published by Hale on April 3, *Investing £100,000 to £10,000,000 for Security and Profit* is priced £16.

Check Your Tax & Money Facts 1997-98, published by Foulsham, gives a detailed summary of the changes proposed in the 1997 Budget, provides helpful advice on completing your tax return, and explains how to claim a tax refund if you are entitled to it. The book also has a section on pay, perks and pensions. The guide is relevant for everyone whether you are a student, a pensioner or a higher-rate taxpayer. Available in bookshops, priced £5.99.

BDO Stoy Hayward, the chartered accountant, has produced a comprehensive guide to tax and financial planning. The 90-page guide covers topics such as charitable giving, estate planning and selling a family company. For a free copy, call 0171 486 5888.

Whether you are single, married, divorced or cohabiting, *Wills and Probate* will show you how to write your will in such a way that your wishes can be carried out without complications. The *Which?* guide offers guidance on what to include in the will, how to sign it and witness the document without employing a solicitor. It also explains how to administer the estate of someone who has died. *Wills and Probate* can be ordered on 0800 252100 (£10.99, p&p free) or from bookshops.

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Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instant Post	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly
Stroud & Swindon BS 0800 618161	Direct Inst	Postal	£50,000	6.60	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£10,000	6.50	Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 100	100 day	£1,000	6.30	Yly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2257777	Postal Bonus	30.6.98p	£50,000	7.05	OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Abbey National 0800 100801	Fxd + feeder a/c	5 year	£9,000	7.50	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd + feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£2,500	7.00	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year	£3,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil

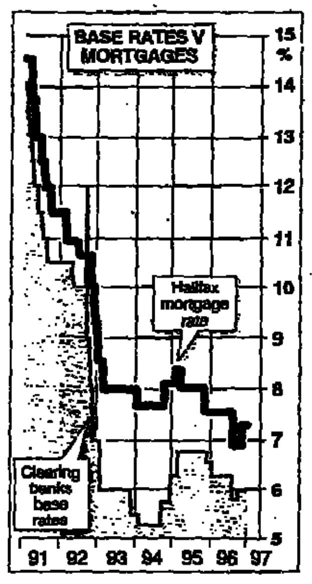
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

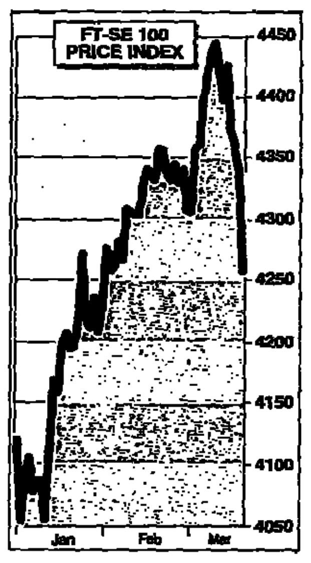
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£112.66	£102.59
Lombard Direct 0800 215000	13.90%A	£120.02	£101.20
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.78	£101.45

Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Sources: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*◦	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**⁷	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*◦	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond◦	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†₂₀	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds◦	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†₂₀	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3◦	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000₅	60day	0645 645000

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free. inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ◦Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100 000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 9,657	£10,702	£12,128
Canada Life..........Level	£ 9,574	£10,658	£12,134
Stalwart ....Level	£ 9,533	£10,639	£11,755
Royal Sun All ....Level	£ 9,429	£10,573	£12,122
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,421	£10,536	£12,044

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,019	£ 9,818	£11,001
Canada Life ....Level	£8,874	£ 9,686	£10,874
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,913	£ 9,658	£10,751
Norwich Union.....Level	£8,838	£ 9,598	£10,708
Stalwart ....Level	£8,668	£ 9,571	£10,453

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Stalwart ....Level	£8,465	£9,153	£ 9,930
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,534	£9,113	£ 9,936
Prudential ....Level	£8,536	£9,068	£ 9,886
Canada Life ....Level	£8,445	£9,067	£ 9,949
Norwich Union.....Level	£8,398	£8,968	£ 9,778

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at March 20, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life (UK)	5.45
	10,000	AIG Life (UK)	5.60
	20,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	50,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	5.80
	20,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.35
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.05
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.15
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.35
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.75
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80

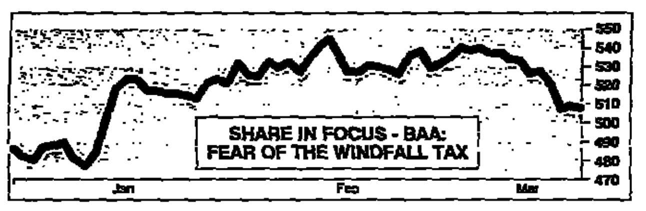
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	104.59	8.950	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	128.43	9.051	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	143.54	9.057	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	148.30	9.019	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	143.38	9.067	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	134.92	8.954	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	126.63	9.279	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	100.70	8.689	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	134.77	8.587	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	154.80	8.802	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	149.45	8.949	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	121.24	8.849	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	141.27	8.937	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	142.37	8.868	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	143.89	8.948	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03)	8.41563%	110.50	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750%	100.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



SHARE IN FOCUS - BAA: FEAR OF THE WINDFALL TAX

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0800 412214	4.25	to £250k	90	3% discount to 1.5.98
Woolwich 0181 298 5831	4.29	£20-200k	50	3% disc-12 mths plus 3% cashbk
Nationwide 0800 302010	3.09	to £500k	75	3.90% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% dsc-6 mth, 3% disc-6 months
Royal Bank of Scot 0800 121121	4.25	£150-250k	90	3% discount to 1.10.97

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% for 6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 981 7220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	1.25	£1-150k	80	6% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Midland Bank 0800 494999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for one year
Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Woolwich 0181 298 5831	5.29	£20-200k	95	2% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880483)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	717.50	763.30	-15.00	2.38
General Inc	594.40	632.40	-12.50	2.38
UK Growth Acc	496.80	528.60	-11.60	2.50
UK Growth Inc	321.50	342.10	-7.50	2.50
Higher Inc Acc	881.00	937.30	-29.70	3.98
Higher Inc Inc	469.30	499.30	-15.50	3.98
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	214.70	226.80	-2.30	5.59
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.77	96.94	-1.00	5.59
Nth America	367.80	391.10	-5.30	...
Europe	396.70	422.10	-3.70	0.29
Brit Excell	97.77	104.10	-2.40	2.62
Brit Fxdnts Acc	125.20	133.20	-3.00	4.62
Brit Fxdnts Inc	82.56	87.86	-1.36	4.62
Global Opps	104.70	111.40	-1.10	.
Balanced Acc	66.12	70.35	-1.17	2.44
Balanced Inc	61.73	65.68	-1.10	2.44
Japan Acc	38.05	40.48	+0.99	.
Pac Basin Acc	390.50	415.50	-10.60	0.99
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131.60	139.60†	-1.70	6.81
High Inc Equity	196.60	209.20	-4.60	4.54
Worldwide Bond	270.70	287.00†	+0.10	4.18
American Growth	428.80	458.30	-3.70	0.36
Asian Pacific	329.80	352.70	-7.60	0.39
Assets & Earnings	317.30	339.40	-13.60	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	203.70	217.90	-2.70	0.73
Extra Inc	42.45	45.16†	-0.74	8.10
General	286.20	304.50†	-9.70	2.97
Global Opps	74.60	79.36	-0.84	0.50
Japan	90.18	96.45	+2.88	
Managed Inc	49.02	52.15†	-0.98	4.31
Mastertrust	175.10	187.30	-3.20	1.28
US Emerging Cos	183.50	195.20	-6.00	..
Ethical	87.30	92.87	-3.47	1.69
International	140.30	149.30	-1.00	0.58
Dividend & Growth	72.05	76.65	-1.75	4.38
Global Gwth & Sec	74.81	79.92	-0.25	2.53
Latin America	82.22	87.47	-0.59	0.45
Capital Reserve	148.00	148.80	-0.10	4.60
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
NSP UK Growth	96.37	102.50	-2.30	2.34
Equity Income	135.20	143.80	-3.90	4.20
Extra Income	261.60	278.20	-6.90	6.47
Smaller Cos	113.60	120.70†	-2.70	1.48
International	117.30	124.70	-1.40	1.38
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2595.00	2697.00	-16.00	.
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	65.29	67.75	-0.14	
Emerging Mkts	79.58	82.88	-1.02	0.04
European	163.70	170.10†	-1.20	
Extra Income #	51.05	53.72†	-1.64	6.86
Far East Emrg Ecn	129.20	135.50	-2.80	0.46
Fixed Interest #	26.51	27.57†	-0.28	8.81
Fund Inv Tst #	170.00	178.40	-2.40	9.31
Japan	153.80	159.80	+2.80	..
Latin America	70.19	73.03	-0.57	0.67
Pacific	80.20	84.19	-1.42	0.31
Property Share	80.93	84.96	-1.72	2.07
UK Emerging Cos	72.54	78.41	-1.57	1.23
UK Growth	58.95	61.40	-1.67	1.91
Aber World Port #	85.87	87.80	-1.53	2.83
Ethical	80.91	84.15	-1.98	2.10
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	49.90	49.95†	-0.38	7.42
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5986				
Resid Property #	99.36	105.70†	.	5.37
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	96.47	102.36†	-2.66	1.97
Income Builder Inc	84.99	90.41	-2.45	3.87
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	305.80	326.90	-9.80	2.84
Capital	544.50	582.60	-19.20	1.08
Balanced	886.30	947.40	-27.20	2.57
Accumulator	1712.00	1830.00	-54.00	1.70
Income Trusts				
American Income	72.05	76.880†	-0.67	2.08
High Income	486.70	520.20†	-14.30	4.10
Equity Income	275.50	294.50	-8.00	3.77
High Yield	299.30	319.80	-8.60	3.76
Govt Securities	34.87	36.800	-0.67	5.93
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	245.90	261.50†	-6.30	0.04
European Growth	61.08	65.290†	-1.18	0.06
International	193.80	207.20†	-2.10	0.11
Japan	158.40	169.30	+4.10	..
Pacific	390.70	417.60	-7.20	..
Secs of America	640.40	681.80	-15.70	0.12
Worldw Asset Val	56.87	60.790†	-0.92	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	688.20	735.60	-20.80	1.86
Conv & Gilt	53.09	56.750†	-1.27	3.73
Smaller Cos	219.00	234.10	-5.60	0.96
2nd Smaller Cos	207.40	221.70†	-5.50	0.83
Recovery	178.60	190.90	-6.30	1.46
Met Min & Cdty	168.70	180.30	-4.70	0.17
Oseas Earnings	452.80	484.00†	-13.10	1.00
Technology	216.30	231.20	-2.80	..
UK Special Sits	625.40	668.50†	-18.10	0.94
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Concord Ord Pens	125.30	130.10	...	0
Founders Pers Pens	74.04	78.92	.	.
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 800 0833				
Capital	91.26	97.09	-3.31	0.77
International	71.70	76.28	-1.21	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	365.20	388.40	-6.70	.
Bond	119.10	125.30	-2.00	6.54
Brit Smlr Cos	120.60	128.30	-2.30	1.75
Conv & Gen #	70.16	74.64†	-1.04	5.17
Europe	307.70	327.20	-2.50	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	129.10	137.50	-1.10	0.30
Income Gwth	399.60	424.50†	-8.00	4.41
Japan	267.20	284.00	+5.00	...
Latin American	104.80	111.50	-0.30	0.57
Pacific	117.10	124.60	-2.80	0.52
UK Smlr Cos	60.22	64.06	-0.20	1.23
Japan Fd	512.40	527.90†	+7.30	..
Mngd Fd	212.90	226.10	-4.40	2.67
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Oseas	408.70	432.30	-7.30	0.82
Capital Gwth	142.10	150.30	-4.20	2.86
Wwide Opps	239.90	253.70	-5.10	0.85
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4900				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	456.70	484.80	-14.50	2.09
European Bd Inc	97.56	101.00	-0.90	5.87
Exempt	89.70	95.43	-2.86	2.56
500	525.70	565.20	-11.60	1.96
General	346.70	367.80†	-12.40	2.16
Property	258.40	277.30	+1.70	5.43
Trustee	243.80	259.30	-7.00	2.29
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.00	101.00	+0.10	5.33
Distribution @#	117.20	117.80	-2.20	6.01
Extra Income #	148.40	158.30	-4.20	4.47
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.82	60.65†	-1.04	7.77
Income #	625.00	668.70	-14.70	4.51
Income Builder #	72.38	77.08†	-1.58	5.17
Intl Income	75.75	80.58	-1.19	1.97
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	152.20	162.00†	-4.50	2.01
FTSE 100	109.00	115.70	-3.00	2.45
Leisure	185.40	197.80	-3.90	1.24
Recovery	529.90	565.30	-16.80	2.20
Smlr Cos Inc	62.22	66.36	-1.00	2.03
Special Sits	436.80	464.50	-13.90	1.86
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	195.70	207.10	-1.80	0.37
F East Gwth Acc	299.20	318.30	-5.40	0.11
Far East Gwth	177.50	188.80	-3.20	0.11
Euro Gwth Inc	204.60	218.50	-2.80	0.59
-do- Accum	222.50	236.40	-3.20	0.59
Japan	115.20	122.00†	+4.30	...
-do- Accum	116.60	123.40	+4.20	...
Japan Spec Sits	55.19	58.46	+1.91	.
Worldwide	203.70	216.30	-1.60	0.63
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	147.80	155.90	-2.40	..
Amer Smlr Cos	137.50	147.40	-8.80	.
Convertibles	81.38	85.52†	-1.46	4.40
Eastern	287.20	306.20	-8.50	0.30
Equity Income #	105.90	113.30	-2.70	4.10
European Growth	405.80	431.00	-0.80	0.80
Europa	412.50	438.00	-2.40	0.80
German Growth	96.10	101.70	+0.80	0.50
Global Bond	71.07	74.74	-0.78	6.20
Global Growth	149.40	158.70	-2.10	0.40
Japan Growth	160.90	170.90	+3.00	..
Japan Services	113.70	120.50	+1.80	...
Korea Trust	45.35	49.03	-1.75	...
Portfolio	154.18	164.60†	-3.90	2.00
-do- Accum	294.00	314.20	-7.30	2.00
UK Growth	115.70	124.30	-3.30	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	106.80	115.80	-3.40	1.90
Select Managers	92.30	99.10	-1.60	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	95.18	101.20	+0.10	...
Special Oppor Inc	67.45	71.76†	-1.72	...
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 8020				
Balanced Growth	154.97	163.89	-4.47	1.36
-do- Accum	180.30	190.89	-5.20	1.36
Smaller Cos	168.89	178.72	-9.27	0.41
Higher Yield #	80.56	84.08	-1.65	3.91
American Gth Inc	113.02	119.59†	-2.56	...
European Growth	179.38	189.82†	+1.56	0.09
-do- Accum	183.16	193.82	+1.59	0.09
Mngd Ptflo Inc	56.62	59.89†	-0.96	1.21
-do- Accum	59.08	62.49	-1.02	1.21
Int Spec Opps	180.97	191.50	-3.08	...
Pacific Gth	154.70	163.71	-2.47	...
UK General #	105.41	111.55	-3.07	2.91
-do- Accum #	114.38	121.04	-3.33	2.91
Japan	45.50	48.15	+1.01	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	100.60	104.25†	-2.04	8.20
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7218				
Short Dated Gilt	63.94	64.76†	-0.37	6.64
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	198.80	209.30	-2.90	1.79
UK Growth	225.20	237.00†	-6.10	2.17
UK Income	158.50	166.90	-4.70	4.18
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	244.40	259.00	-6.00	1.58
-do- Income Dist	134.20	142.30	-3.80	3.52
-do- Accum	439.20	465.40	-12.50	3.52
Gilt & Fxd Int	40.71	42.78†	-0.52	6.36
Growth Units	274.40	293.30	-7.70	1.97
Bond	175.60	184.70†	-2.60	6.90
Intl Growth	239.60	255.30	-2.00	0.18
North American	281.50	299.00	-1.90	0.08
Far East	315.20	337.18	-8.18	0.57
UK Smaller Cos	251.30	268.80	-5.50	1.06
European	101.40	107.70	-1.70	0.47
Japanese Growth	36.65	38.85†	+0.93	...
High Income	231.80	247.80†	-10.70	4.10
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0181 831 7433 Enq 0181 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	234.90	249.00†	-6.30	.
European Inc	106.10	117.60	-1.40	0.22
Smaller Cos (4-1)	116.50	124.00†	-0.80	1.30
Growth	592.70	630.20†	-20.70	1.98
Income & Growth #	491.60	523.00	-19.00	3.56
-do- Accum #	753.60	801.80	-29.00	3.56
Japan & Gen	52.85	56.17†	+0.96	.
Hallmark Gwth	£12.86	£13.50	-40.00	1.72
-do- Accum	£16.08	£16.73	-50.00	1.72
Special Sits	136.80	145.40	-4.30	1.96
High Yield	£15.97	£16.47	-57.00	4.01
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	107.73	114.38	-1.85	2.10
American Portfolio	133.98	141.53	-2.37	0.99
European Portfolio	150.11	159.93	-2.66	0.56
High Income	52.43	52.56	-0.72	7.15
Japanese Portfolio	54.60	57.81†	+1.56	..
Pacific Portfolio	162.28	174.50	-5.24	0.74
UK Equity	103.70	110.78	-2.52	3.12
UK Equity & Bd	60.43	64.95	-1.58	6.12
UK Smlr Cos	55.89	58.92†	-1.27	1.56
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	830.35	842.90	-8.64	4.08
Fxd Int Sec	156.97	157.58	-1.45	9.07
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	819.36	831.74	-13.27	4.14
Investment Acc	£38.25	£38.83	-62.18	.
Fixed Int Inc	128.09	129.41	-1.81	8.96
Fixed Int Acc	240.03	240.89	-3.42	...
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.47	93.35	-0.71	5.37
Beck Bio-Tech	42.26	45.98	-3.39	
Acorn Ethical Tst	188.92	198.28	-4.20	0.43
City Fin Assets	85.00	89.34	-0.12	1.73
City Fin Intl	91.45	98.03	-1.42	0.13
Fstas Hsn Cap	332.95	354.21	+2.08	2.24
Buckley Wrld Gth	143.31	151.91†	-1.79	...
J Std Inc/Gth Inc	59.58	62.65	-2.11	3.31
Shaw Utilities	64.32	65.79	-2.07	6.73
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.62	64.32†	-0.13	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	83.02	88.32	-0.59	.
Dragon Growth	71.44	76.40	-1.73	0.40
Equity High Inc	96.45	103.37†	-3.04	3.74
-do- Accum	141.40	151.55	-4.45	3.74
Extra Income Inc	26.81	28.33	-0.45	7.24
Extra Income Acc	30.04	31.63	-0.49	7.24
European Gwth	68.43	72.65	-0.22	0.45
Evergreen	31.78	33.98	-0.44	...
General Equity	113.86	120.81	-1.99	2.65
Japan Growth	37.78	40.20	+0.91	...
Pedigree Gwth	68.02	72.88	-1.65	2.16
Pcd Sm Cos Inc	40.72	43.79	-0.75	1.08
-do- Accum	43.41	46.69	-0.80	1.08
Retirement Inc #	29.47	31.38	-0.86	5.68
Special Sits	50.28	54.06	-0.78	2.58
UK & Overseas	62.98	66.74	-0.79	0.63
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 890 000				
Balanced	73.68	76.79†	-1.49	3.93
Capital	88.86	92.56†	-1.75	2.47
High Income	52.58	54.77†	-0.89	6.50
Top 50	80.48	82.99†	-1.53	2.43
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	205.11	213.68	-7.43	4.30
Long Gilt	44.26	46.08	-0.72	6.13
Monthly Inc Plus	51.63	53.79	-0.85	8.33
Preference Share	49.42	51.48	-0.82	7.57
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	149.33	155.57	-5.02	5.48
Managed Fund	79.75	83.08	-1.02	2.67
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	58.12	60.55	+0.38	1.57
-do- Accum	68.70	71.57	+0.36	1.57
UK & General	105.12	109.51	-2.94	2.75
-do- Accum	138.31	144.09	-3.86	2.75
UK Growth	212.50	221.38	-5.79	1.27
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	229.88	239.48	-1.60	0.68
Far Eastern Gth	127.78	133.12	-1.28	0.02
Global Bond	75.90	79.07	-0.14	6.27
Japan Growth	93.55	97.46	+2.69	...
North Amer Gth	265.82	276.92	-1.78	...
Oriental Growth	84.33	87.85	-2.03	0.26
Worldwide Growth	75.47	78.62	-0.63	...
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.25	93.25	+0.08	5.38
Homemaker Fund	93.81	99.81†	-1.61	2.16
Dollar Fund	162.96	173.38†	-4.28	2.08
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	37.39	39.95†	-0.97	3.95
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	195.10	207.60	-3.60	1.34
Income	75.47	80.29	-1.86	4.34
European	80.64	85.79	-1.74	0.30
Recovery	188.00	200.00†	-10.20	2.44
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1077.60	1093.80	+23.70	3.14
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 680 370				
Fellowship Tst	116.90	124.30†	-3.30	1.11
Income #	301.20	320.40	-7.20	4.37
-do- Accum #	804.20	855.50	-19.10	4.37
Smaller Cos	244.30	259.80	-5.80	0.92
-do- Accum	304.30	323.70	-7.30	0.92
Gth Portfolio	105.80	112.50†	-2.40	1.27
High Inc Port #	87.54	93.12†	-2.04	4.19
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1712.20	1745.90†	-28.40	..
UK Small Cos	2349.40	2437.10	-27.80	2.71
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	241.90	254.80	-8.20	3.14
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	185.80	197.40	-2.00	1.84
UK High Inc Inc	193.60	205.90	-2.00	3.46
-do- Accum	265.30	282.20	-2.80	3.46
UK Pref & F I Inc.	59.63	63.53	-0.96	5.82
Euromrkt Opps	109.30	116.20	-1.60	0.86
UK Smlr Cos #	77.59	82.44†	-1.15	0.97
Extra Income Inc	50.07	53.26†	-0.72	6.50
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 069 526				
Convertibles #	23.40	24.86†	-0.39	5.63
Enterprise	115.50	122.40	+0.10	2.04
Equity Income #	148.90	158.20†	-3.10	3.79
European	69.30	73.31	-0.69	0.55
Financial	81.80	86.66	-2.74	1.37
Growth & Inc #	303.60	321.90†	-8.00	2.72
High Dist #	188.00	200.80	-4.00	4.25
International	438.90	466.30	-6.80	0.11
Int Cap Inc	110.80	118.30	-2.10	2.28
Latin American	36.91	39.22	-0.08	..
Pacific	83.86	89.90	-2.14	.
Pml High Inc	23.03	24.47	-0.34	7.36
Tokyo	179.20	189.80	+2.20	...
UK Smaller Cos	262.70	279.10	-5.00	1.07
Dunedin Unit Trusts				
Jap Smlr Co	304.30	323.60	+3.30	..
Nth Amer	472.70	501.80	-3.20	0.58
UK Inc & Gth	268.30	285.50	-6.60	2.59
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Bfit Director Digs	131.54	140.88	+2.26	1.60
Growth Acc	287.36	306.31	..	0.93
Income	619.46	659.72	-16.18	6.02
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	236.00	251.10	-3.90	0.89
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	99.01	104.22	-2.17	1.58
Ethical Tst	47.77	50.28	-1.60	0.88
Far Eastern	298.33	314.03	-3.48	1.45
High Income	150.21	158.12	-5.58	4.67
UK Index Trckng	55.17	58.07†	-1.80	3.05
Intl Growth	151.84	159.83†	-1.33	0.63
North American	160.00	168.28	-3.11	1.74
Pelican	154.06	162.17	-5.21	2.94
Smaller Cos	76.65	80.68	-1.13	2.73
Special Sits	98.06	103.22	-2.30	2.81
Tst of Inv Tsts	228.88	241.14†	-2.57	1.26
For Evermore see Laurence Keen				
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	106.58	114.28	-3.75	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.18	59.93	-0.53	0.48
High Income #	42.04	45.05	-0.78	11.10
Warrant	48.52	52.74†	-1.36	.
Zero Preference	45.75	48.54	-0.33	...
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	101.50	107.90	-2.90	2.30
United Charities	337.20	359.70	-13.40	2.09
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.60
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	27.05	28.04	-0.01	5.21
Strategic Inc	27.38	28.62†	-0.73	5.93
Income Funds				
High Income	27.67	29.03†	-0.46	5.31
Income Plus	140.70	149.70†	-2.80	4.00
European Income	53.87	57.34†	-0.42	2.37
UK Div Gth	33.80	36.04†	-0.63	2.32
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	61.71	65.60	-1.82	...
American	351.40	374.80	-10.50	...
Amer Spec Sits	187.60	200.60	-5.20	...
Japan Smaller Cos	23.56	25.09†	+0.40	...
European	258.70	275.10	+0.80	0.49
European Opps	90.52	98.31	-0.35	0.82
Global Prv	35.42	37.67	-0.23	0.30
UK Growth	132.60	141.00	-3.00	1.38
Growth & Inc	193.40	205.70	-3.90	2.28
Intl PEP	51.81	55.00	-0.77	0.99
Japan Spec Sits	66.77	70.84	+1.51	...
Japan	151.80	161.60	+3.30	...
Managed Intl	376.40	399.90†	-3.40	0.47
Moneybuilder	68.84	73.20	-0.91	...
Recovery	66.21	70.40†	-1.44	1.63
South E Asia	196.00	208.60	-3.10	0.96
Special Sits	803.20	854.10	-8.40	0.52
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	118.34	118.34	+0.10	5.60
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	150.70	162.30†	-3.40	1.61
Fledtery Fd Inc #	100.40	101.20†	-1.60	6.14
Cap Ptflo	170.60	171.60	-2.30	0.46
General Opps	152.93	154.30	-2.70	3.23
Growth Inc	38.41	39.77	-1.25	1.94
Private Portfolio	517.90	525.60†	-10.50	1.14
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 366 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	161.70	171.60	+3.40	0.17
High Income	22.53	23.95	-0.33	9.39
Japan Smlr Cos	14.31	15.33	+0.14	.
US Smaller Cos	444.00	472.20	-8.50	.
For Foster & Braithwaite see Collier				
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	82.62	88.08†	-1.33	..
-do- Accum	82.82	88.60†	-1.33	...
Amer Smlr Cos	647.90	692.00	-19.20	.
-do- Accum	661.00	707.00	-19.60	.
Capital Tst	423.50	450.50†	-8.50	1.09
-do- Accum	625.40	665.30†	-9.10	1.09
Contl Smlr Cos	64.24	68.59	-0.65	1.31
-do- Accum	68.35	73.08	-0.70	1.31
Convertible	146.80	156.20	-2.00	5.10
-do- Accum	325.20	348.00	-4.70	5.10
Emerging Markets	70.24	75.04	-0.70	0.30
-do- Accum	70.80	75.64	-0.70	0.30
European	163.30	173.00	-1.70	0.50
-do- Accum	173.00	183.30	-1.80	0.50
Extra Income	411.70	438.00	-8.70	4.45
-do- Accum	663.90	708.30	-15.50	4.45
Financial	195.90	208.40	-3.70	0.46
-do- Accum	208.10	221.40	-3.90	0.46
Gilt Trust	64.32	68.32	-0.45	6.65
-do- Accum	100.00	103.10	-0.70	6.65
Health Fund Inc	268.10	285.40	-11.50	.
-do- Accum	268.10	286.40	-11.90	
Income & Growth	240.80	256.20	-5.50	3.95
-do- Accum	389.10	413.90	-9.60	3.95
Intl Growth	431.20	459.70	-2.30	
-do- Accum	478.80	510.80	-2.40	.
Japan & Gen	135.50	143.90†	+3.60	.
-do- Accum	136.80	145.40†	+3.70	...
Monthly Inc #	209.00	222.30†	-3.40	4.38
-do- Accum #	212.80	226.40†	-3.40	4.38
Managed Port Inc	126.60	132.70	-1.90	1.35
-do- Accum	136.80	144.00	-2.10	1.35
Quarterly Income #	58.82	62.97†	-1.45	5.28
-do- Accum #	68.77	73.63†	-1.69	5.28
Recovery	335.90	359.30	-7.40	..
-do- Accum	396.60	424.20	-8.70	.
UK Growth	71.24	75.79	-1.57	2
-do- Accum	77.26	82.19	-1.69	2
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 716884				
FP American	68.19	72.56	-0.40	0.09
FP Am Smllr Cos	205.80	219.30	-1.60	
FP Asian Growth	286.40	305.40	-6.20	..
FP Australian	441.50	470.90	-12.70	.
FP Equity Dist	487.70	520.20	-14.20	2.36
-do- Accum	£10.89	£11.61	-32.00	2.36
FP Euro Gth	322.50	344.00	-2.40	
-do- Accum	352.80	376.30	-2.70	...
FP Intl Bond	56.65	59.94†	+0.15	4.43
FP Intl Gth Dist	39.26	41.80	-0.31	
-do- Accum	57.70	61.54	-0.45	
FP Pac Basin Acc	210.50	224.50	-2.80	
FP Income #	82.57	86.74	-1.51	4.82
-do- Accum #	222.40	237.20	-5.40	4.82
FP Jap Smllr Cos	219.90	234.50	+2.80	
FP Monthly Dist #	78.62	83.86†	-1.56	5.38
FP Stg Deposit	100.00	100.00	...	5.01
FP Tokyo	65.47	69.83	+2.08	.
FP UK Focus	45.13	48.13	-1.19	1.67
FP UK Growth	212.20	226.30	-5.70	2.26
-do- Accum	431.70	460.40	-11.40	2.26
Stewardship Dist	472.50	504.00	-8.70	1.24
-do- Accum	597.10	636.90	-11.00	1.24
Stwrdshp Inc Dist #	82.55	88.05†	-1.89	4.73
-do- Accum #	115.50	123.10	-2.40	4.73
N Am Stship Dist	137.80	146.10	-1.20	0.20
-do- Accum	147.50	157.30	-1.20	0.20
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	113.80	114.30	-2.20	3.20
Inst Ethical Ac #	113.80	114.30	-2.20	3.20
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	133.30	141.80	-1.90	1.13
Open Cap Gth Acc	137.40	146.10	-2.80	.
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	122.70	130.50†	-1.40	3.06
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	131.50	139.80	-1.50	3.06
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	127.10	135.20†	-2.30	3.83
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	137.70	146.40	-2.50	3.83
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	320.10	338.60	-5.30	1.76
Cash	49.53	50.27†	+0.04	4.46
Growth Portfolio	94.35	100.40	-1.10	
Income Portfolio	76.50	81.17†	-1.09	2.81
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	252.40	268.90	-11.50	0.33
Dividend	103.30	110.50	-3.70	3.88
Intl Gth & Inc	262.90	281.20	-6.00	2.28
UK & Gen	54.10	57.95†	-1.56	1.43
Fund of Funds	78.42	83.87†	-1.87	. .
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	211.00	225.70	-8.30	0.15
European Gth	807.80	859.80	-3.20	0.55
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	56.51	59.93	-0.54	5.03
-do- Accum	64.15	68.03	-0.61	5.03
Far East & Gen	265.20	284.70	-5.90	..
High Yield #	50.15	53.13	-0.98	7.55
-do- Accum #	57.08	60.47	-1.11	7.55
Income Inc	205.20	219.50†	-7.50	3.94
-do- Accum	238.30	254.90	-8.60	3.94
Intl Growth	394.40	419.50	-4.50	0.29
Intl Income	100.30	106.20	-1.00	2.57
Japan Growth	398.00	422.80	+2.80	...
Orient Acc	212.60	227.20	-3.90	0.13
UK General Inc	196.00	209.30	-7.50	1.67
UK General Acc	351.90	375.80	-13.40	1.67
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	65.03	69.55	-2.84	1.67
UK Spec Sits	111.40	119.20	-3.10	1.38
US Growth	203.00	214.90	-3.80	.
Wwide Spec Sits	164.40	174.80	-0.60	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	62.82	67.01†	-1.75	2.06
Cash Trust	149.18	149.18†	+0.12	5.46
Practical Inv Inc #	129.75	138.81†	-2.32	3.47
-do- Accum #	315.47	337.40†	-4.09	3.47
UK Index	191.76	192.72†	-4.68	3.12
UK Smaller Cos	229.30	245.24	-5.62	0.27
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	25.05	25.96	-0.37	7.15
High Income	36.71	39.19†	-0.64	4.50
UK Equity Income	169.18	181.19†	-4.32	3.01
Global Bond	28.16	28.19†	-0.43	4.62
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	51.44	55.02	-0.63	...
Global Managed	149.61	159.67	-0.84	0.91
Gold & Intl Res	112.83	120.67	-2.98	...
Global Utilities	158.12	166.66	-2.27	0.95
Overseas Funds				
American	215.12	227.99	-2.98	0.54
European	147.84	156.82†	-0.70	0.59
Euro Sml Opps	229.11	243.48†	-0.68	...
Amer Emerging	173.49	185.30	-6.17	...
Hong Kong	180.00	192.53†	-4.44	1.99
Japan	181.60	192.85	+4.29	...
Pacific Growth	226.87	243.75	-6.97	..
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Managed Equity	271.96	271.96	-4.23	1.79
Long Term Bal	289.30	289.39	-4.10	2.86
Mid Term Bal	238.00	238.09	-2.74	2.81
UK Equity	322.79	322.79	-8.44	2.49
UK Emerging Cos	193.44	193.44	-3.10	1.87
American	362.20	362.20†	-2.49	0.40
Japan	105.67	105.67†	+2.66	...
European	382.81	382.81†	-2.06	0.71
Index Linked Gilt	190.94	190.94†	-0.56	2.89
Fixed Interest	182.27	182.27†	-1.71	7.20
Amer Emerging	381.45	381.45†	-12.77	...
Pacific	231.72	231.72	-6.07	0.67
Emerging Mkts	135.56	135.56†	-1.56	0.52
Index Strat Japan	114.63	114.63	+3.55	0.31
-do- Pacific Bsn	210.06	210.06	-4.49	0.97
-do- Cont Europe	204.73	204.73	-2.80	1.39
Index Strat USA	214.35	214.35	-2.15	1.36
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	128.44	136.63	-2.13	..
Med-Term Bal	113.88	121.14	-1.39	..
Long Term Bal	130.54	138.87	-2.03	...
UK Equity	150.40	160.00	-3.19	...
UK Emerging Cos	91.13	96.95	-1.56	...
American	167.98	178.69	-1.23	...
Japan	50.52	53.74	+1.36	...
European	159.19	169.35	-0.81	...
Fixed Interest	93.94	99.93	-1.14	...
Index Linked Gilt	85.09	90.52	-0.28	...
Deposit	89.76	95.50	+0.09	...
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	162.91	171.49†	-2.06	0.50
Brstl Gth Port Inc	75.87	80.07	-1.41	0.60
-do- Inc Port Inc	67.22	70.94	-2.29	3.50
-do- Wwide Port	60.23	63.57	-1.62	0.10
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	704.79	749.78	-10.67	0.68
-do- Accum	802.01	851.08	-12.11	0.68
European Inc	188.86	200.53	-0.52	1.02
Amalgam Inc	168.61	179.80	-3.20	...
N America Inc	438.98	467.91	-9.85	...
Far East Inc	352.09	374.56	-9.84	0.17
-do- Accum	365.43	388.76	-10.21	0.17
UK Divid Inc	222.89	237.12	-12.30	1.81
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7886				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	126.110	133.050	-1.57	...
Do NAV to Mar 21	123.59	123.59	+5.27	...
UK Equity Safeguard	98.66	105.04	-0.97	...
Do NAV to Mar 21	91.86	91.86	...	...
Cash	9.5520	9.6807	+0.01	5.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	301.70	320.60	-9.60	2.27
British Growth	74.81	80.00	-3.19	2.56
UK Small Cos	76.26	81.55†	-0.23	0.82
FTSE 250 Index	93.90	100.41	-3.79	2.12
Geared UK Index	17.3225	18.2867	-1.06	4.75
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	98.62	105.75†	-3.30	4.09
Corp Bd	77.91	80.49	-0.71	5.87
Monthly Inc	40.96	43.66†	-0.03	8.77
International Funds				
American Gen	257.40	272.40	-2.70	..
American Strat	243.97	260.92	-8.50	...
JG US Index	20.0456	21.1208	-0.42	3.75
European Gen	292.40	309.40	-1.80	0.74
European Strat	132.15	141.33	-2.20	...
Japan Gen	131.19	138.70	+3.30	...
Japan Strat	44.91	48.00	+0.05	...
Asia Pacific	101.96	109.04	-3.47	1.25
Pacific Strat	164.89	176.34†	-3.14	...
Greater China	230.82	246.85	-6.94	...
Latin America	112.73	120.58	-1.18	...
Int Growth	171.94	183.86	-3.70	...
Balanced Exempt	143.30	148.50	...	2.47
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9886				
European	632.70	675.90	-4.10	...
Gilt & Fixed	130.40	138.30†	-1.70	6.55
Growth Equity	478.40	511.10	-14.40	1.21
Income Trust	161.00	172.00	-5.20	3.88
International	212.70	227.20†	-3.20	...
Japan Trust	99.30	106.00	+2.50	...
Nth American	385.87	412.10	-8.60	...
Pacific	581.80	621.50	-13.90	0.65
[illegible]	694.70	742.10†	-15.90	1.33
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
EMU Trust	101.52	105.33†	+0.28	5.73
Global High Inc	96.85	100.52	-0.32	6.00
Corporate Bond	105.50	109.51	-1.81	7.15
Eqty & Bond Inc	116.88	124.26	-1.99	4.92
European Growth	140.67	149.57	-0.30	...
Intl PEP Trust	74.76	79.49	-1.17	...
Equity Inc	144.80	153.95†	-5.12	3.57
-do- Accum	215.70	229.43	-7.62	3.57
Recovery	440.30	468.10	-15.70	2.33
-do- Accum	528.00	559.20	-18.90	2.33
St Vinc High Inc	136.08	136.12†	-0.26	7.07
UK Emerg Cos	309.80	329.30	-19.30	2.78
UK Smlr Cos	427.60	455.10	-4.10	2.94
Glob Ptfl Tst	135.70	144.20	-1.43	1.07
-do- Accum	141.08	150.02	-1.49	1.07
Inc Share Tst	98.83	104.24†	-1.89	6.43
Small Cos	105.55	112.22†	-0.84	2.17
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5950				
Balanced Inc	57.57	61.04	-1.35	3.32
Balanced Acc	61.97	65.71	-1.45	3.32
Growth	35.49	37.63†	-0.90	1.88
Growth Acc	36.96	39.19	-0.93	1.88
Income	33.70	35.73†	-0.70	4.34
Income Acc	36.57	38.77	-0.85	4.34
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Accumulation Tst	28.01	30.35	-0.81	2.82
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 380				
High Provider	99.80	103.20†	-1.20	6.58
Model Ptflo	257.00	270.20	-8.40	2.19
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 280 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Port Acc	47.28	50.00	.	1.40
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 484946 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	378.80	405.51†	-11.18	0.62
Best of British	78.22	83.14	-2.48	2.08
UK Smaller Cos	165.06	177.43†	-4.52	0.57
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	328.90	350.31	-8.98	3.42
-do- Accum #	940.32	£10.01	-25.69	3.42
High Income	361.18	385.09	-9.87	4.07
Extra Income #	308.22	327.78†	-7.67	5.82
Pref & Bond	50.76	52.48	-0.50	8.10
International				
Ethical	127.44	135.29†	-2.64	1.93
International	332.45	353.14	-1.98	...
Global Bond	54.39	57.17†	-0.84	5.05
Intl Prst Tst	103.22	110.38	-1.55	0.54
Global Tech	222.78	239.05	-11.54	...
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	199.94	213.64	-5.32	0.24
European	675.42	715.34	-2.17	0.05
European Income #	191.18	197.21†	-1.94	2.98
Euro Smlr Cos	222.31	237.17	+0.07	1.00
European Value	105.03	113.14	-0.61	..
-do- Accum	114.07	121.72	-0.68	...
Japan Trust	174.49	185.72	+4.13	...
Japan Smlr Cos	159.00	168.54†	1.47	
Pacific Smlr Cos	229.22	244.20†	8.73	
North American	346.92	367.97	3.75	
American Smaller	176.15	188.51	5.59	
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	168.40	177.30†	3.70	[illegible]
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	131.99	138.21	3.59	1.79
Capital	213.96	224.04†	4.20	[illegible]
Dollar	563.85	580.06	10.80	
Enterprise Gth	454.71	476.14†	10.72	[illegible]
European	306.93	321.39	1.61	0.09
Far East	309.16	323.73	9.24	[illegible]
Financial	£11.66	£12.21†	61.52	[illegible]
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.61	27.57	0.36	6.60
High Yield #	118.15	123.72	3.17	3.85
Income & Growth #	174.88	183.13	4.63	3.56
International	300.97	315.15	3.02	0.96
Japanese General	162.20	169.94	4.13	
Japan Tech	72.40	75.81	1.00	0.89
Nat Resources	82.84	86.74	1.77	0.27
Portfolio	88.75	92.93	1.81	1.29
Special Sits	243.49	254.96†	2.08	0.01
UK Emerging Cos	139.66	146.24	3.58	0.74
US Smaller Cos	158.36	165.83	2.78	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	679.90	725.60	19.90	[illegible]
UK Growth	746.50	796.70	24.40	1.42
High Income #	122.40	130.60†	3.60	[illegible]
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	683.90	723.50	2.40	0.24
European Gwth	161.70	172.00	0.80	0.14
Japan Gwth	227.00	235.00	+5.50	
Japan Smllr Cos	24.13	25.75†	0.11	
Asian	63.16	67.41	1.67	
Sing & Malay Gwth	93.06	99.32	3.75	
Hong Kong Gwth	174.40	186.00†	5.70	0.93
Global Bond	21.27	22.40	0.06	4.74
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	178.50	181.40	4.40	2.97
Tosie Index	136.70	140.20†	2.50	2.05
THE FOOTSIE FUND	70.68	71.04	1.72	2.33
Index Funds-International				
American Index	321.90	323.50†	1.60	0.92
Eurotrack 100	213.20	214.30†	1.20	1.38
Japan Index	60.50	60.80†	+2.04	0.11
Tiger Index	187.60	192.50	1.80	0.15
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	55.51	57.97†	1.31	1.17
General Funds				
Managed Dist	94.10	98.28	1.59	1.11
Managed	96.99	101.30	1.70	1.11
Rupert Child Fnd	111.70	116.50	2.80	1.82
UK Growth	76.98	80.40	2.11	1.52
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	93.35	97.49	2.51	5.46
Gilt & Fixed Int #	26.79	27.63†	0.88	7.72
UK Inc & Gwth	52.38	54.60	1.43	2.77
UK Income #	407.00	425.10	12.70	4.24
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	67.30	69.89†	1.37	
Amer Smlr Cos	151.00	157.70	7.50	
-do- Accum	152.60	159.40	7.50	
Europe Gth	267.30	278.50	3.70	
-do- Accum	276.90	288.50	3.80	
Euro Smaller Cos	50.57	52.64	0.25	
French Growth	107.80	111.60†	+1.20	0.17
-do- Accum	116.50	121.10†	+1.40	0.17
H Kong & China	116.00	120.70	3.30	0.49
Intl Growth	70.96	73.84	0.64	0.36
-do- Accum	72.30	75.24	-0.66	0.36
Japan Gth	24.03	24.96	+0.60	
-do- Accum	24.03	24.96	+0.60	
Japan Smaller Cos	27.36	28.43	+0.29	
Glob Emrg Mkts	103.50	108.10	-0.60	
-do- Accum	104.20	108.80	-0.70	0.11
SE Asia	350.90	366.50†	8.10	
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	50.75	52.34†	-0.02	6.26
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690446				
Sector Value Inc #	111.70	117.60	3.10	3.47
Sector Value Gwth	113.70	119.70	-3.20	1.76
Hy 5 Europe	110.30	115.90	-0.30	1.92
Slater Gwth	203.70	217.30	-4.30	0.92
New Japan	78.63	82.98	+1.15	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	206.60	219.70	-10.60	
Income #	241.72	257.14	-4.85	4.03
UK Growth	93.79	99.77	-2.31	1.85
Intl Growth	91.19	97.01	-0.86	0.58
Ecology	109.63	116.62	-3.62	0.89
European	230.89	245.09	-1.83	0.20
Far Eastern	309.30	329.00	-3.40	
UK Special Sits	59.90	63.89	-1.43	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.52	60.28	-0.51	
High Income #	54.67	58.31	-1.20	4.80

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KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.90	104.20†	-1.70	6.99
Euro Ptr Inc	111.10	118.20	-1.70	2.75
-do- Accum	111.10	118.20	-1.70	2.75
Gilt Yield	118.90	125.40†	-1.70	6.45
Global Income	242.50	258.00†	-4.60	3.09
High Yield	169.40	180.20	-5.80	5.17
-do- Accum	566.30	602.40	-16.30	5.17
Money Market	99.20	99.20†	+0.11	5.39
Smlr Cos Div	67.03	71.31†	-0.62	3.63
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	10.190	10.340	-0.27	...
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	158.30	168.40†	-4.90	
Asian Growth	318.80	339.10	-10.60	..
-do- Accum	374.70	398.80	-12.40	...
North American	117.50	125.08	-3.06	..
European Special	146.70	156.10	-0.50	1.87
European	194.70	207.10	-3.30	0.46
-do- Accum	257.80	274.30	-4.40	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	125.90	133.70†	-2.00	2.06
Japan	332.60	353.80	+11.50	..
Japanese Special	169.60	180.40	+2.00	..
Smaller Cos	160.30	170.50	-2.90	0.98
UK Equity Growth	59.60	63.50†	-1.65	1.12
UK Index Inc	364.00	365.80	-9.50	3.83
Bircham Tst	111.90	120.20†	-2.30	2.00
-do- Accum	113.70	122.20†	-2.40	2.00
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	332.59	353.82	-8.41	4.61
Esk Growth	107.42	114.28	-0.98	1.91
Inc & Growth	75.02	79.81	-2.82	3.55
Smaller Cos	101.00	107.45	-2.87	1.11
Ever Smlr Cos Inc	252.17	268.27	-6.05	2.14
Ever Smlr Cos Acc	455.45	484.52	-10.94	2.14
Ever Recovery Inc	63.99	68.07	-1.42	2
Ever Recovery Acc	66.79	71.05	-1.47	2
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	485.30	514.50†	-12.80	2.09
UK Inc/Gth #	508.90	538.20†	-18.80	4.12
UK Income #	369.70	392.30†	-6.50	4.46
UK Sm Cos	324.80	347.40†	-7.40	1.25
Euro Gwth	172.20	182.10	-4.70	0.16
N Amer Gwth	133.60	141.80	-1.90	...
Japan Growth	47.55	50.28	+0.95	...
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 395				
Equity Dist @	624.60	624.60†	-21.80	2.50
-do- Accum @	£13.02	£13.02†	-45.00	2.54
Equity Income @#	108.70	108.70	-3.90	4.85
UK Tactical Allocn @	71.35	71.35†	-2.31	4.26
European @	157.70	157.70†	-3.30	0.83
Far Eastern @	220.30	220.30†	-5.80	..
Fixed Interest @	54.71	54.71†	-0.93	6.91
Gilt @	93.06	93.06	-1.00	6.54
Global Growth @	82.19	82.19	-1.74	0.30
Intl Bond @	50.11	50.17†	-0.06	5.37
Japanese @	57.51	57.51	+0.64	...
North American @	240.70	240.70	-7.30	0.49
Pacific Growth @	123.70	123.70†	-4.30	0.11
Pacific Index @	48.80	48.80	-1.34	...
UK Index @	83.01	83.01	-2.75	2.90
UK Recovery @	121.80	121.80	-4.70	1.91
UK Smaller Cos @	171.70	171.70	-4.20	1.00
US Index @	94.58	94.58	-2.00	1.04
European Index @	90.20	90.20†	-2.10	1.54
Japan Index @	31.25	31.25	+1.04	0.03
Worldwide @	102.90	102.90	-2.70	1.45
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 600				
Growth	60.44	64.64	-1.46	2.84
Income	70.11	74.88	-2.22	4.20
Far East	47.62	50.93†	-0.60	...
North American	140.50	150.00	-1.70	.
Global	100.70	107.70	-0.70	0.29
European	108.80	116.20†	+0.10	0.69
Japan	78.17	83.60	+2.14	...
Intl Currency Bd	56.47	59.81	-1.30	4.81
SE Asia	105.20	112.50	-4.10	0.32
UK Cap Growth	110.00	117.60	-3.50	1.52
Recovery Trust	94.35	100.90	-2.40	1.40
Managed	76.61	81.98†	-1.06	1.63
Cash	50.20	50.28†	+0.03	4.23
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	438.00	468.00	-11.80	2.15
-do- Accum	£10.46	£11.13	-29.00	2.15
Contl Euro Gth	89.27	93.97	-0.09	0.03
-do- Accum	96.67	101.80	-0.10	0.03
Extra Inc	301.10	320.40	-8.40	3.44
-do- Accum	838.50	893.10	-23.50	3.44
FTSE 100 Inc	131.90	140.40	-3.80	2.79
FTSE 100 Acc	137.80	146.80	-3.80	2.79
German Gth	154.00	162.20	-0.90	...
-do- Accum	161.50	170.00	-1.10	...
Growth Port	705.10	750.20†	-4.40	0.02
-do- Accum	734.80	781.80	-4.60	0.02
High Interest Inc	99.70	103.40†	-2.36	7.73
High Interest Acc	109.00	113.00	-2.40	7.73
Hi Reserve Inc #	109.60	116.70†	-2.50	5.98
Hi Reserve Acc #	122.30	130.20	-2.80	5.98
Income Inc #	590.90	628.70	-16.20	3.48
Income Acc #	£16.90	£17.98	-48.00	3.48
Income Port	589.80	627.30	-14.60	4.16
-do- Accum	672.20	715.20	-16.60	4.16
Japan Growth	83.70	89.05	+2.58	...

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Gilts advance, equities slide

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Classic publication upholds tradition of high standards

The Timeform organisation is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. **Richard Evans** reports

Timeform: 50-year-old. Phil Bull - By Chance (Dick Whitford). Good sort, top-class performer with classic pedigree. Pinpointed thousands of winners every year during outstanding career. Admirably game, genuine and consistent. Effective under any conditions and in most countries. Scope for further improvement (on Internet) and a credit to connections.

Thus, modesty permitting, the gurus of Halifax might use their own instantly recognisable but quaint terminology to describe the organisation as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

Two unconnected events this month serve to illustrate the success and reputation enjoyed by *Timeform's* racing publications. At the Cheltenham Festival, a record 15,000 racecards, complete with ratings and commentaries, were sold to punters. Meanwhile, racing's most important supporter was leafing through the 1,168 pages of the latest *Racehorses* annual. "Her Majesty was, as always, pleased to receive this invaluable publication," a recent letter, on Buckingham Palace notepaper and pinned to the company notice board, states.

Yet, as with many of the best things in life, when the word *Timeform* — "a marriage of Time and Form" — first appeared 50 years ago, it came about more by chance than design. Although Phil Bull is widely acknowledged to have been the inventor, there would have been no *Timeform* without Dick Whitford, who had learnt the art of handicapping during wartime service in the Royal Navy.

With Bull struggling in the winter of 1947-48 to meet the deadline for his latest edition of *Best Horses*, it was Whitford who proposed a publication introducing form ratings and thumbnail sketches of horses which led to the *Best Horses of 1947 Timeform Supplement*, published in April 1948. The forerunner to the *Racehorses* series launched the *Timeform* empire, although it is doubtful if even Bull was aware of the potential in the early years.

"It came about by accident as a business, because originally this idea was conceived to help Phil with his betting," Reg Griffin, who joined Bull in 1957 and is now *Timeform* chairman, explained.

Maybe not, but the success of the annuals and the updates throughout the summer quickly proved to be money-spinners. However, the turning point for *Timeform* arguably came in 1962 when it introduced racecards for individual meetings, started National Hunt weekly "Black Books" and moved in Halifax to purpose-built offices. "From being regarded by some as 'tipsters in the back streets of Halifax', we became 'respectable'," Griffin said.

The influence of the ratings and commentaries led to *Timeform* being dubbed the punters' Bible, much to the disgust of Bull, a lifelong atheist. After a knight of the shires had opined, within earshot of the great man, that his motto was "to follow Bull and the Bible" at the races, there was an instant retort. "I don't think I take very kindly to being associated with that publication."

Nonetheless, eight years after Bull died, at the age of 79, his spirit lives on at Timeform House, with its 80-strong payroll and annual turnover approaching £3 million. On the editorial floor, where a 20-strong team of race interpreters, writers and handicappers produce the raw material for the various racing publications and outlets, there is an atmosphere of scholarly endeavour and rigorous professionalism. It is backed up by a sense of fierce independence, fostered by Bull and underpinned by an employee share-owning scheme designed to thwart commercial predators.

The computer has been responsible for many changes in recent times, including the availability of *Timeform* on disc, although, significantly, the belief that handicapping is an art and not a science has precluded new technology from calculating horses' ratings. Next year could see *Timeform* on the Internet and the introduction of a service for Hong Kong's racing mad population.

But amid all the changes, the organisation's *raison d'etre* remains unchanged 50 years on. "Everything that Phil Bull did was from the perspective of the punter. That is still the guiding principle," Geoff Greetham, a *Timeform* director, emphasised.

All of which begs the question: which horse should backers look out for as the 1997 Flat season gets under way? Entrepreneur, trained by Michael Stoute, according to Jim McGrath, the Channel 4 pundit and *Timeform's* best known face.

"He is the most gorgeous horse and has a classic pedigree. Most of Sadler's Wells's progeny don't shine at two, but he won a maiden very impressively and, given his trainer and connections, there is every possibility he will be a much stronger force this year." That, as Bull used to like saying, sounds like a bet with a capital B.

JOAN RUSSELL

Griffin has volumes of Racehorses annuals to refer to at Timeform's headquarters in Halifax

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.30 Seattle Alley. 2.05 Buckland Lad. 2.40 Yellow Dragon. 3.10 Little Martina. 3.45 Colonial Kelly. 4.20 I'm A Dreamer.

Carl Evans: 3.45 Prince Buck.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.30 NEWLEAF JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,361: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1 5 ILLUMINATE 28F D O'Brien 11-0 J R Kavanagh
2 F0 MY NAD KNOWS 12 J Poulton 11-0 T J O'Sullivan
3 QUAKERS FIELD 147F G L Moore 11-0 D Gallagher
4 0330 SEATTLE ALLEY 9 P Webber 11-0 J A McCarthy
5 00 ZAISAN 22 J Gifford 11-0 P Hide
6 650 SILVRETTA 11 J Gifford 10-9 L Aspell (3)
7 4005 VERONICA FRANCO 10 B Pearce 10-9 P Henley (3)

5-4 Seattle Alley, 2-1 Quakers Field, 8-1 Illuminate, Silvretta, 10-1 Zaisan, 16-1 Veronica Franco, 25-1 My Nad Knows.

2.05 MALCOLM AND SUE HAVE SAID I DO NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,468: 2m) (6)

1 -312 BUCKLAND LAD 7 (D,BF,F,S) D Grissell 6-11-10 J R Kavanagh
2 4-46 NAUTICAL GEORGE 100 J Upson 7-11-9 Gary Lyons
3 -F00 FANE PARK 19 (S) C Popham 9-10-13 L Aspell (3)
4 /PR- BRIGHT SEASON 473 J C Poulton 9-10-4 T J O'Sullivan
5 PF4F EAU SO SLOE 12 J Poulton 6-10-3 A Dicken
6 UF80 MASTER PANGLOSS 24 A Turnell 7-10-3 W McFarland

11-10 Buckland Lad, 3-1 Nautical George, 9-2 Master Pangloss, 5-1 Fane Park, 16-1 Eau So Sloe, 33-1 Bright Season.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Turnell, 11 winners from 36 runners, 30.6%; G L Moore, 8 from 29, 27.6%; J Gifford, 9 from 44, 20.5%; D Grissell, 5 from 47, 10.6%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: D Skyrme, 5 winners from 26 rides, 19.2%; A Dicken, 6 from 33, 18.2%; J R Kavanagh, 5 from 38, 13.2%, J A McCarthy, 3 from 24, 12.5%; D Gallagher, 9 from 73, 12.3%. Only qualifiers.

2.40 CHELSHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,025: 2m 110yd) (11)

1 3531 DERISBAY 12 (B,F,G,S) J Bridger 9-11-10 M Batchelor (7)
2 00P0 MILLENIUM LASS 4 (V) Miss M Rowland 9-11-6 Gary Lyons
3 0-53 SWINGING SIXTIES 8 G L Moore 6-11-4 J R Kavanagh
4 1F06 YELLOW DRAGON 12 (S) B Pearce 4-11-1 P Henley (3)
5 1043 SCRIPT 12 (CD,F,S) J Jenkins 6-10-13 D Morris
6 3000 COOLEGALE 129 L Wells 11-10-8 L Aspell (3)
7 -05P CAVO GRECO 40 (F,G) J Joseph 8-10-7 D Skyrme
8 0005 ALDWICK COLONNADE 10 (D,F,G) M Usher 10-10-5 W McFarland
9 0210 RUTH'S GAMBLE 8 (V,D,BF,G) Mrs L Jewell 9-10-3 J A McCarthy
10 00-P TAPESTRY ROSE 40 J Poulton 6-10-0 A Dicken
11 -0P0 TIGANA 2 (V) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0 K Gaule

2-1 Derisbay, 4-1 Swinging Sixties, 9-2 Ruth's Gamble, 6-1 Script, 6-1 Yellow Dragon, 10-1 Aldwick Colonnade, 16-1 Coolegale, 25-1 others.

3.10 CHRIS PYE 50TH BIRTHDAY NOVICES CHASE (£3,317: 3m) (3)

1 12PU LITTLE MARTINA 10 (D,G,S) D Grissell 9-11-5 J R Kavanagh
2 P-0P NAPOLEON'S GOLD 17 (B) A Foster 7-11-4 D Morris
3 23U0 WEE WINDY 28 (F,G,S) J Gifford 8-11-4 P Hide

4-9 Wee Windy, 9-4 Little Martina, 14-1 Napoleon's Gold.

3.45 EDEN HUNTERS CHASE

(Amateurs: £1,123: 3m) (5)

1 -P3P COLONIAL KELLY 9 (D,F,G,S) Mrs D Grissell 9-12-12 C Vigors (5)
2 -F3P PRO BONO 18 (F,G) A Morgan 7-12-12 A Dalton (7)
3 /F- LOYAL GAIT 315 (F) A Darlington 9-12-5 Andrew Martin (7)
4 PRINCE BUCK 21P (G,S) M Roberts 7-12-5 P Hacking (3)
5 F5/ RUN FOR FREE 13P (CD,F,G,S) Mrs T Hill 13-12-5 A Hill (3)

5-2 Prince Buck, 11-4 Run For Free, 3-1 Colonial Kelly, 4-1 Pro Bono, 9-2 Loyal Gait.

4.20 GUMMER HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,343: 2m 110yd) (4)

1 4124 MARIUS 14 (S) J Gifford 7-12-0 W Greatrex (7)
2 3131 TICKERTY'S GIFT 7 (CD,S) G L Moore 7-11-13 M Batchelor (7)
3 5310 I'M A DREAMER 8F (D,F) Miss M Rowland 7-10-12 Gary Lyons
4 -104 COURAGEOUS KNIGHT 229 (D) P Hayward 8-10-0 P Henley (3)

6-4 Tickerty's Gift, 7-4 Marius, 3-1 I'm A Dreamer, 6-1 Courageous Knight.

[illegible]

THUNDERER

2.10 Kinnescash. 2.45 Classic Account. 3.15 Southampton. 3.50 Around The Gale. 4.25 Campeche Bay. 4.55 Selatan. 5.25 Arctic Fox.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 STAN CLARKE NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,186: 2m 1f) (15 runners)

1 321 TALATHATH 16 (G) D Nicholson 5-11-8 R Johnson
2 40 ALTHREY PILOT 16 A Turnell 6-11-2 C Rae
3 02/0 BRANDON BRIDGE 15 D Geraghty 6-11-2 V Slattery
4 43 EL CRANK SENOR 63 R Woodhouse 5-11-2 R Dunwoody
5 4R01 FLORID 8 (G) C Brooks 6-11-2 M Berry (7)
6 0-06 GAF 17 B Cambidge 5-11-2 T Eley
7 2F0- MR LOWRY 393 L Barratt 5-11-2 S Wynne
8 0P0 REACH THE CLOUDS 51 J Upson 5-11-2 R Supple
9 /U-F RINUS MAJOR 28 D McCain 6-11-2 D Walsh
10 /3-3 VADLAWYS 21 S Brookshaw 6-11-2 A Dobbin
11 01 MUNTADI 16 (G) Lady Herries 4-11-0 P Niven
12 0500 JESSOLLE 29 G Richards 5-10-11 R Burns
13 5-0B POT BLACKBIRD 21 R Lee 8-10-11 W Marston
14 302 KINNESCASH 12 P Bowen 4-10-6 L Cummins (7)
15 TABRIZ 147F Mrs P Aylson 4-10-3 O Pears

5-2 Talathath, 4-1 Florid, 6-1 Muntadi, 8-1 Kinnescash, 10-1 Vadlawys, 12-1 Jessolle, 14-1 others.

2.45 CROSS LANES HOTEL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,358: 2m 1f) (16)

1 P114 PALACE OF GOLD 28 (BF,F,G) L Lungo 7-11-10 W Dowling (5)
2 5020 ETERNAL CITY 16 (D,G) G Richards 6-11-10 R Burns (5)
3 0060 NEVER SO BLUE 30 (F) P Bradley 6-11-8 R Wilkinson (3)
4 3/38 RED MARCH HARE 172 J Haynes 6-10-11 C McCormack (5)
5 20U2 NIGHT BOAT 3 W Clay 6-10-10 Guy Lewis
6 515/ CLASSIC ACCOUNT 18F (G) J Eyre 9-10-9 C Elliott (5)
7 6-05 QUIXOTRY 17 J Mackie 6-10-8 E Husband
8 5330 STRIKE-A-POSE 37 (S) B Llewellyn 7-10-7 G Lee
9 0000 BUD'S BET 38 (F) Miss J Craze 9-10-7 M Newton (3)
10 -100 NORD LYS 37 (D,F) B Llewellyn 6-10-3 Michael Brennan
11 0005 STILL HERE 7 (B) P Bowen 4-10-1 L Cummins (5)
12 6050 JARROW 38 Mrs A Naughton 6-10-0 S F Ryan
13 0-05 KISMETIM 38 G Kelly 7-10-0 T Hogg (5)
14 P0-0 BIT OF ROUGH 17 W Clay 7-10-0 D J Kavanagh
15 40/P REGAL JEST 42 B Murray 7-10-0 N Horrocks (5)
16 PP0 A BADGE TOO FAR 7 Mrs L Williamson 7-10-0 S Taylor (3)

7-2 Palace of Gold, 5-1 Eternal City, 6-1 Night Boat, 8-1 Strike-A-Pose, 10-1 Never So Blue, A Badge Too Far, 12-1 others.

3.15 ALTHREY WOODHOUSE HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,879: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 -031 GENERAL PERSHING 29 (C,D,F,G) D Nicholson 11-12-0 R Johnson
2 42-5 CAMITROV 29 (D,G,S) T Keddy 7-12-0 A Dobbin
3 5021 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 99 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 8-11-12 L Wyer
4 215- ANDERMATT 289 (C,D,G,S) J Mackie 10-11-1 W Marston
5 2320 SOUTHAMPTON 10 (V,F,G,S) G Balding 7-10-13 R Guest
6 P-01 FRICKLEY 21 (G,S) G Richards 11-10-10 R Dunwoody
7 0632 DOLIKOS 18 (D,S) T Caldwell 10-10-0 Michael Brennan (3)

7-4 Frickley, 11-4 Cumbrian Challenge, 5-1 General Pershing, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Nicholson, 14 winners from 43 runners, 32.6%; C Brooks, 5 from 17, 29.4%; G Richards, 23 from 91, 25.3%; P Hobbs, 4 from 19, 21.1%; D Gandolfo, 6 from 30, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 27 winners from 81 rides, 33.3%; A Dobbin, 6 from 30, 20.0%; W Marston, 8 from 45, 17.8%; R Guest, 6 from 35, 17.1%; S Wynne, 9 from 84, 10.7%, L Wyer, 3 from 29, 10.3%.

3.50 MILES MACADAM NOVICES CHASE

(£4,358: 3m 110yd) (9)

1 1212 AROUND THE GALE 28 (C,BF,G,S) D Gandolfo 6-12-0 R Dunwoody
2 2-21 CHOPWELL CURTAINS 115 (F,G) T Easterby 7-11-11 L Wyer
3 122P MONYMOSS 7 (G) Mrs S Smith 8-11-11 R Guest
4 21F0 THE REVEREND BERT 9 (G) G Balding 9-11-11 B Clifford
5 F FOXWOODS VALLEY 25 D Nicholson 6-11-5 R Johnson
6 00 GRIZZLY BEAR 21 R Shiels 7-11-5 S Wynne
7 -202 MYSTIC ISLE 14 (S) N Gaselee 7-11-5 W Marston
8 000U BECKY'S GIRL 16 R Brotherton 7-11-0 T Eley
9 4P/F MINDYEROWNBUSINESS 33 R Lee 8-11-0 D Walsh

4-5 Around The Gale, 3-1 Chopwell Curtains, 7-1 Monymoss, Mystic Isle, 10-1 The Reverend Bert, 12-1 Foxwoods Valley, 25-1 others.

4.25 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB MAIDEN CHASE (£3,696: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 2U-F CAMPECHE BAY 16 G Balding 8-11-7 R Dunwoody
2 2-38 CRANE HILL 61 (B) P Hobbs 7-11-7 W Marston
3 -P53 DANDIE IMP 12 (S) A Carroll 9-11-7 D Walsh
4 -0F4 FORT ZEDDAAN 11 Mrs S Smith 7-11-7 R Wilkinson (7)
5 6PP LEDBURIAN 12 Miss P Whittle 7-11-7 Guy Lewis (3)
6 40 LITTLE NOTICE 119 (S) T Forster 6-11-7 S Wynne
7 044/ STEEL CHIMES 1057P B Cambidge 6-11-7 T Eley
8 0UU6 TUG YOUR FORELOCK 15 G Johnson Houghton 6-11-7 Michael Brennan (3)
9 P DEE LIGHT 24 G Richards 8-11-2 A Dobbin
10 00P LADY ROSEBURY 40 R Price 7-11-2 T Jenks
11 F4P3 PEARL EPEE 29 D Nicholson 8-11-2 R Johnson

4-6 Campeche Bay, 7-1 Pearl Epee, Dandie Imp, 8-1 Little Notice, 10-1 Crane Hill, 12-1 Dee Light, 20-1 others.

4.55 LIGHTWOOD GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,957: 3m) (13)

1 -033 SELATAN 14 (BF,S) D Gandolfo 5-12-0 R Dunwoody
2 70-1 WINN'S PRIDE 7 (F,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-11-10 S Wynne
3 0363 INDIAN QUEST 15 (S) N Gaselee 8-11-6 W Marston
4 1202 JERVAULX 15 (G) G Richards 6-11-4 A Dobbin
5 042P FLAT TOP 26 (D,S) M W Easterby 6-11-3 P Midgley (3)
6 1045 WHITE WILLOW 19 (B,F,G,S) T Wall 8-11-0 T Jenks
7 3000 PRUSSIA 10 (F) W Clay 6-11-0 Guy Lewis (3)
8 4052 CASSIO'S BOY 10 (C,BF,S) R Eckley 6-10-10 R Johnson
9 5/05 NEEDWOOD POPPY 15 (G) B Morgan 9-10-7 B Clifford
10 0250 WHITEBONNET 19 (B,S) C Egerton 7-10-1 Sophie Mitchell (3)
11 PP0P FAR SENIOR 25 (F,S) P Wegmann 11-10-0 D J Kavanagh (5)
12 0P30 JIBBINSTOWN 35 (G) J J O'Neill 10-10-0 L Cooper (7)
13 -200 DOOLAR 47 (F,G,S) P Dalton 10-10-0 Michael Brennan (3)

9-2 Selatan, 5-1 Jervaulx, 6-1 Winn's Pride, 8-1 Indian Quest, Flat Top, Needwood Poppy, Cassio's Boy, 12-1 others.

5.25 BANGOR-ON-DEE MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,560: 2m 1f) (18)

1 4 ARCTIC FOX 28 Miss H Knight 5-11-10 Mr A Wintle (7)
2 DAKOTA III D Nicholson 6-11-10 Mr O McPhail (7)
3 0 EAGLE DANCER 14 Lady Herries 5-11-10 Michael Brennan (3)
4 GALESHAN G Richards 5-11-10 R Burns (7)
5 MICHIGAN BLUE W Jenks 5-11-10 Mr A Mitchell
6 ROCKY BALBOA Miss P Whittle 5-11-10 Guy Lewis (3)
7 2 SHROPSHIRE GALE 28 S Brookshaw 6-11-10 O Burrows (5)
8 STAR ADVENTURE J Evans 5-11-10 Miss E James
9 0 BE IN SPACE 43 Miss P Whittle 6-11-5 Sophie Mitchell (3)
10 0 NIRVANA PRINCESS 10 B Preece 6-11-5 J Mogford (7)
11 OUTRAGEOUS AFFAIR A James 5-11-5 G Lee (3)
12 RAMILLION I Brown 5-11-5 Mr A Brown
13 0F/ SEE MORE ANGELS 686 A James 6-11-5 E Husband (3)
14 GO CAHOOTS A Turnell 4-11-2 C Rae
15 4 THE LIGHTMAKER 28 S Earle 4-11-2 D J Kavanagh (5)
16 0 DINKY DORA 15 J Cresswell 4-10-11 N T Egan (7)
17 MAZZELMO A Bailey 4-10-11 S Melrose (7)
18 PENNYBRYN J Eyre 4-10-11 C Elliott (7)

2-1 Dakota III, 7-2 Shropshire Gale, 4-1 Arctic Fox, 6-1 Galeshan, 10-1 The Lightmaker, Go Cahoots, 12-1 others.

Eyre celebrates Doncaster double

LES EYRE saddled a double at Doncaster yesterday to continue his good start to the 1997 Turf Flat season. The Hambleton trainer, who was on the mark with Brutal Fantasy on Thursday, took his score to three in two days, courtesy of Onefourseven and Kira.

But Barrel Of Hope, the most fancied of Eyre's four runners, failed to make the frame in the day's feature race — the Worthington Spring Mile.

Onefourseven, twice successful on the all-weather last November, produced a determined effort to land the Town Moor Handicap over 2¼ miles. Sent to the front by Tyrone Williams two furlongs out, the four-year-old was headed by Noufari soon after but fought back inside the last to win by 1¼ lengths.

Kira, ridden by Roddy Lappin, had 2½ lengths to spare over Safio in the Manelinc-Solocomb Handicap over six furlongs.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster

Going: good to firm

1.30 (5f) 1, Jackerin (M Fenton, 6-1) 2, Lord Smith (7-4 fav); 3, Pink Ticket (9-1) 9 ran. Hd, 1¾l. B Rothwell. Tote £8.40, £1.70, £1.10, £2.70. DF £7.90. Trio £20.10. CSF: £16.43.

2.05 (2m 2f) 1, Onefourseven (T Williams, 9-2); 2, Noufari (11-2); 3, Master Foodbroker (8-1). Magic Combination 11-4 fav. 10 ran. 1¼l, 8l. J Eyre. Tote £5.40; £1.80, £1.60, £2.20. DF: £10.80. Trio: £32.00. CSF: £26.05. Tricast: £173.02.

2.35 (6f) 1, Kira (R Lappin, 12-1); 2, Safio (33-1); 3, Sea-Deer (6-1 jt-fav); 4, So Intrepid (12-1). Mansab 6-1 jt-fav. 22 ran. 2½l, nk. J Eyre. Tote: £13.70; £3.00, £28.90, £1.70, £3.30. DF: £385.50. Trio: £1,816.80. CSF: £348.78. Tricast: £2,435.13.

3.10 (1m) 1, Artful Dane (M Roberts, 10-1); 2, Shinerolla (8-1 fav); 3, Sharp Shuffle (10-1); 4, Sandmoor Chambray (14-1). 23 ran. ¾l, hd. M Heaton-Ellis. Tote: £13.70; £3.90, £2.60, £2.20, £4.50. DF: £37.00. Trio: £111.20. CSF: £71.78. Tricast: £786.48.

3.40 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Mithak (M Hills, 11-4, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Nambucca (11-1); 3, Heritage (8-13 fav). 8 ran. 4l, 2½l. B Hills. Tote: £3.40; £1.10, £1.70, £1.10. DF: £13.80. CSF: £28.58.

4.10 (7f) 1, Zaretski (M Roberts, 7-2); 2, Titta Ruffo (5-2 fav); 3, Honourable (12-1). 8 ran. ¾l, 1½l. C Brittain. Tote: £5.40, £1.50, £1.30, £2.70. DF: £9.70. CSF: £12.47.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,707.00 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £135.90. Quadpot: £16.20.

Newbury

Going: good to firm (chase course) good (hurdles)

1.50 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Ready Money Creek (J Osborne, 11-2); 2, Absolutly Equiname (11-4 fav); 3, Menesonic (7-2). 14 ran. 1½l, ½l. O Sherwood. Tote £4.60, £1.30, £1.40, £1.90. DF £6.70. Trio £9.50. CSF £18.85.

2.25 (3m ch) 1, Linton Rocks (B Powell, 6-5 fav); 2, Hatcham Boy (11-8); 3, Amber Valley (17-2). 5 ran. 3l, 2½l. T Thomson Jones. Tote £2.20, £1.30, £1.20. DF £2.20. CSF £2.79.

2.55 (2m 5f hdle) 1, Ouini Eagle (Jamie Evans, 8-1); 2, Lively Encounter (15-8 fav); 3, Foxes Lad (9-1). 19 ran. NR: Ever Blessed, Relkander. 2l, hd. M Pipe. Tote £8.10; £2.10, £1.40, £3.00. DF £12.50. Trio £19.40. CSF £19.89.

3.25 (3m ch) 1, Fox Pointer (Mr R Thornton, 7-4 fav); 2, Ardbrennan (100-30); 3, Ryming Cuplet (2-1). 7 ran. 18l, 21l. Mrs L Evans. Tote £2.50; £1.40, £1.50. DF £5.40. CSF £7.16.

4.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, Terao (T J Murphy, 9-4); 2, Change The Act (9-2); 3, High Altitude (2-1 fav). 5 ran. NR: Master Boston. 2½l, 12l. M Pipe. Tote £2.90; £1.60, £2.40. DF £6.70. CSF £11.33.

4.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Red Raja (J Osborne, 2-1); 2, Fairly Sharp (13-8 fav); 3, Province (10-1). 4 ran. 3½l, 16l. P Mitchell. Tote £2.80. DF £1.80. CSF £5.27.

Placepot: £17.00.

Quadpot: £14.50.

Kelso

Going: good

1.40 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Son Of Anshan (J Supple, 5-4 fav); 2, Bold Classic (5-1); 3, Clash Of Swords (5-1). 12 ran. 22l, ½l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote £1.70; £1.10, £2.00. DF: £10.50. Trio £7.80. CSF £6.33.

2.15 (2m 1f ch) 1, American Hero (B Storey, 9-1); 2, Mr Knitwit (2-1); 3, Real Tonic (7-4 fav). 8 ran. 5l, 2l. R Allan. Tote: £6.40; £1.30, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £20.90. CSF £23.40.

2.45 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Monnaie Forte (J Railton, 7-1); 2, Ingletonian (4-1 fav); 3, Our Robert (10-1). 9 ran. NR: Going Public. ¾l, 5l. J Adam. Tote £7.60; £2.00, £1.60, £3.00. DF: £26.20. Trio £116.50. CSF: £31.44. Tricast: £252.67.

3.15 (3m 1f ch) 1, Son Of Iris (P Niven, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Coqui Lane (4-1); 3, Tighter Budget (12-1). Whaat Fettle 2-1 jt-fav. 5 ran. 1l, 13l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £5.70. CSF: £9.25.

3.50 (3m 4f ch) 1, Jigtime (Mr M Bradburne, 1-2 fav); 2, Royal Jester (3-1); 3, Orange Ragusa (11-2). 5 ran. 7l, 1½l. J Hughes. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.10. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.50.

4.20 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Cash Box (N Smith, 14-1); 2, Major Harris (12-1); 3, No Gimmicks (9-2). Deranne 6-5 fav. 15 ran. 1¼l, 3l. T Carr. Tote £18.90; £2.20, £2.90, £2.00. DF £47.50. Trio £269.40. CSF: £152.49.

4.50 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Mister Ross (A Dobbin, 7-4 fav); 2, Just One Question (6-1); 3, Grosvenor (7-2). 14 ran. 6l, 5l. J Johnson. Tote £2.70; £1.40, £2.00, £1.10. DF £14.20. Trio £27.40. CSF £11.07.

Placepot: £28.10. Quadpot: £25.60.

Jukes has to miss Llangibby

POINT-TO-POINT
BY CARL EVANS

JAMIE JUKES, the national men's champion, will not be riding this weekend after a fall at Erw Lon last Sunday. Jukes said: "I'm bruised but it's not serious and I should be back next week."

The Welshman's decision not to risk aggravating his injury has been made easier by the news that Bert Lavis, Jukes's main source of rides, has been forced to shut down his yard because of a virus.

Their absence diminishes the card at the **Llangibby** meeting today, although Pip Jones will be in action and could ride Lucky Ole Son, who became her hundredth winner in points last Sunday.

Chilipour misses the men's open because of firm ground while Riverside Boy is an absentee for the same reason, but also because of a bereavement in the Crow family. Sheila Crow's mother, Alice Edwards, 91, owner of the good mare Scally Muire, died on Thursday.

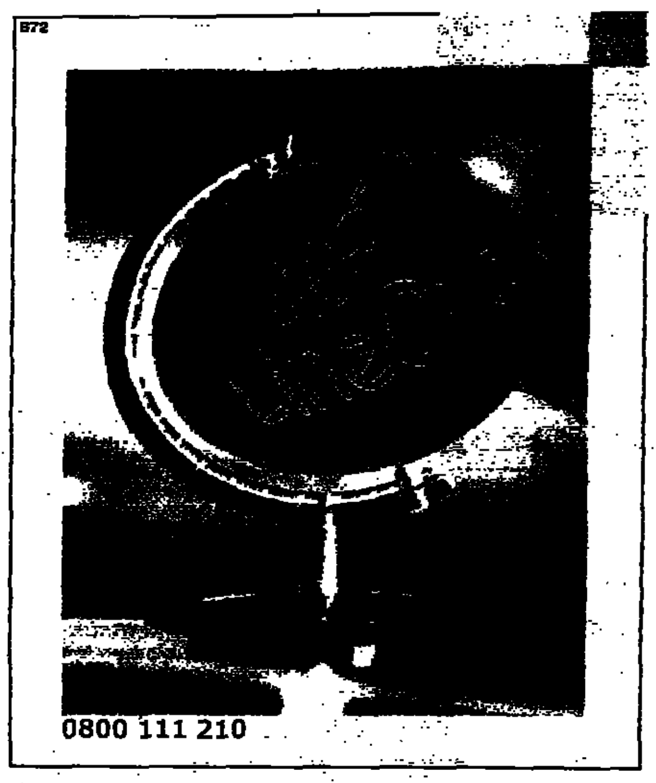
The Crows have no runners today, but will take a strong team to the **Sir Watkin William Wynn's** meeting tomorrow. Stepaside Boy could prove the pick.

The ground may be drying out but it will certainly be fresh for the **Hurworth** meeting, which last raced at Hutton Rudby 13 years ago. Little used turf is also on offer at Siddington where the **Vale Of White Horse** meeting is the sole fixture each season. Julian Pritchard has hopes of a winner on Bishops Island.

Peter Craggs takes over from the suspended Andrew Parker on Sayin Nowt at the **Duke of Buccleuch's** fixture. If Hagar and Todcrag take on the mare, a Catterick hunter chase winner, this fixture could stage the race of the day.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Cambridgeshire at Horseheath, 4m west of Haverhill (first race 1.30); Crawley & Horsham, Parham, 4m S of Pulborough (1.30); Duke of Buccleuch's, Friars Haugh, W of Kelso (1.00); Hurworth at Hutton Rudby, 4m W of Stokesley (12.30); Lamerton, Kilworthy, 2m N of Tavistock (1.00); Llangibby, Howick, 2m W of Chepstow (12.30); Mendip Farmers, Castle of Comfort, 2m N of Priddy (1.00); VWH, Siddington, 2m S of Cirencester (1.30); Wilton, Badbury Rings, 4m NW of Wimborne (1.00). TOMORROW: Mid Devon, Chyst St Mary, 7m E of Exeter (1.00); Sir WW Wynn's, Eaton Hall, 4m S of Chester (12.00); South Wold, Brocklesby Park, 8m W of Grimsby (2.00).

B72



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THE TIMES
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CHANGING TIMES

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RACING: RAMSDEN-TRAINED HOPE HAS RIGHT CREDENTIALS FOR DONCASTER'S LINCOLN HANDICAP

Hawksley Hill can scale the heights

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

JACK RAMSDEN, one of the most successful punters in the land, is not given to shouting from the rooftops about fancied horses but he believes Hawksley Hill has a cracking chance in the Worthington Lincoln at Doncaster today.

Trained by his wife, Lynda, who sent out High Premium to win this mile handicap in 1993, Hawksley Hill did not stop progressing last season, winning the first of six handicaps on his seasonal reappearance.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAWKSLEY HILL
(3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: *Mile High*
(5.15 Doncaster)

Richard Evans landed a 40-1 double with his nap, Mithak (11-4), and Artful Dane (10-1) at Doncaster yesterday.

Two of those successes came over Newmarket's straight mile, including the final of the Rothmans series when he was value for much more than his comfortable length and a half victory, having had to tack over to the stands' rail.

Indeed, had he enjoyed a better draw in his previous race, the Cambridgeshire, he would have gone very close. His progressive form and physique suggest he could make up into an even better four-year-old and the preparation for the first big handicap of the new Turf Flat season increases confidence.

"Hawksley Hill has done plenty of work and looks great. We have not had a racecourse gallop, but there is a very good place where we can take them to and he has been going really well," Ramsden said yesterday.

"There have been no setbacks and the preparation has gone smoothly. He looks pretty sure to run well and you can ride a race on him. Basically, he never runs a bad race. He's a tough horse and likes the bustle of big handicaps in big fields."

A low draw has been an advantage in recent years and, with La Petite Fusee, Barossa Valley and Whittle Rock drawn towards the far side, there should be plenty of pace for Hawksley Hall in stall six. An interesting statistic is that four of the past ten winners — Stone Ridge, Our Rita, Fact Finder and Star Of A Gunner — have all been drawn six.

The form of Kuala Lipis's maiden success at York last term has worked out well and the Paul Cole-trained runner ran a sound trial on the all-weather a fortnight ago. However, a high draw may be a disadvantage to him, along with Kala Sunrise, Rockforce and Pusey Street Girl. At around 9-1, **Hawksley Hill** looks worth a bet.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, the appearance of **Mile High** in the Selby Maiden Stakes (5.15) will appeal to backers who prefer the shorter-priced "good thing" variety of bet.

On his second and final start last term, the Mick Channon-trained runner did particularly well at Goodwood to finish half a length behind In Command, the subsequent Dewhurst Stakes winner, with five lengths back to the third.

Channon is in no doubt that the Puissance colt is "very good indeed" and although he holds a 2,000 Guineas entry the trainer feels today's trip of six furlongs is ideal. It will be a disappointment if he fails to get off the mark today.

Newbury is one of Nicky Henderson's favourite haunts and he looks to have every chance of improving on his good track record by winning the second division of the Final Novices' Hurdle (3.55) with **Classy Lad**.

The winner of three races in New Zealand, including twice over ten furlongs last year, he finished 13 lengths fifth behind Sanmartino on his hurdling debut at Kempton four week ago. That form looks better than anything else on show.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

The blinkered Artful Dane lands the Worthington Spring Mile Handicap at Doncaster yesterday

Hamilton Silk primed for smooth success

NEWBURY
BBC1

1.15: Valiant Warrior is the best-handicapped horse judged on last season's form but has been out of sorts this term, like many of his stablemates, and this is his first attempt at three miles. Pyr Four ran well behind Church Law on his first start for Graham McCourt since leaving Ireland, but is not always the best of jumpers and these stiff fences may find him out. With Darren The Brave 11lb out of the handicap, the in-form **Senor El Betrutti** looks the safest bet. He will relish the small field and fast ground.

1.45: Hamilton Silk was just getting into the picture in the County Hurdle when a mistake two out ended his chance. Previously, he had been a good second to Make A Stand here in the Tote Gold Trophy and Martin Pipe's runner should have the race run to suit with the front-running Kadastrof in the field. Forestal has shown improved form since being ridden with more restraint, and won a competitive handicap at Cheltenham before finishing a good fifth in the Imperial Cup. He represents the main danger.

2.15: Fiddling The Facts looks best-in at the weights but all her form is on soft ground. She was a shade disappointing behind Spring Double here three weeks ago. Potter's Gale was runner-up to Boardroom Shuffle at Cheltenham two starts ago, which gives David Nicholson's runner sound claims. However, **Lucia Forte**, proven over the trip and on fast ground, is the percentage call. Kim Bailey's runner came from nearly last to win a decent contest at Wincanton last month and winners have come out of that race.

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

3.00: Neville Callaghan has always rated **Danetime** and the 2,000 Guineas entrant is just preferred to Handsome Ridge and Craigievar. The winner of a Newcastle maiden on fast ground last summer, he recorded an even better effort in a fast-run race for the Houghton Stakes won by Crimson Tide. Craigievar won a competitive Nottingham nursery by five lengths but is not sure to see out this mile. Handsome Ridge beat a better-fancied stablemate in an end-of-season Doncaster maiden. The Indian Ridge colt does not need to find much improvement to be involved in the finish.

3.40: see left.

4.15: Air Quest had classic pretensions after winning at Newbury early last season, but returned very sore after running in the Chester Vase and was not seen again. He may need this run after such a long lay-off. Wilawander, fourth in the Queen's Vase and sixth in the St Leger, would appreciate further and **Sheer Danzig** is preferred. The winner of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy at Sandown last summer, he subsequently ran even better in defeat. Suited by today's trip and ground, the Robert Armstrong-trained runner won first time out in 1995.

4.45: Royal Applause, winner of the Middle Park Stakes and unbeaten as a two-year-old, disappointed last term but had an interrupted campaign. Barry Hills's runner could make up into a top sprinter this season. Astrac prefers softer conditions underfoot and Easy Dollar and Passion For Life look bigger dangers.

Richard Evans

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

DONCASTER

THUNDERER
2.00 Classy Cleo
2.30 Rainbow Rain
3.00 Craigievar
3.40 Hunters Of Brora
4.15 Sheer Danzig
4.45 Ventura Capitalist
5.15 Mile High

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
3.40 TUMBLEWEED RIDGE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 **CRAIGIEVAR** (nap).
3.40 Sky Dome. 4.15 Sheer Danzig.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 GREY FRIARS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,488: 5f) (14 runners)

101 (4) CAPTAIN BRADY (F Brady) W G M Turner 8-9 D Sweeney (5) –
102 (12) DONNA'S DOUBLE (M Butler) N Tinkler 8-7 Kim Tinkler –
103 (11) O' HIGGINS (T Wells) R Boss 8-7 L Dettori –
104 (13) JIM DORE (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-5 W Ryan –
105 (10) RISING OF THE MOON (Miss L Regis) R Hannon 8-5 Pat Eddery –
106 (2) LIVINGSTONE (Select Partners) C Dwyer 8-4 D R McCabe –
107 (8) SATIS (B Walters Catering) M Channon 8-4 Paul Eddery –
108 (1) MARGARET'S DANCER (G Batty) C Smith 8-3 A Clark –
109 (7) MR FUND SWITCH (J Aaron) D Nicholls 8-3 Iona Wands (7) –
110 (14) NOBLE SAJA (Ryedale Associates) T Easterby 8-3 J Quinn –
111 (5) CLASSY CLEO (Mrs A Kane) R Hannon 8-1 Dane O'Neill –
112 (6) CAROL GRIMES (J Grimes) J Moore 7-13 R Ffrench (7) –
113 (3) BANNINGHAM BLADE (Crown Select) K Ivory 7-12 Martin Dwyer (3) –
114 (9) ORIEL GIRL (D Maloney) P Evans 7-12 J F Egan –

BETTING: 4-1 Satis, 5-1 Rising Of The Moon, 6-1 Captain Brady, 7-1 O' Higgins, 8-1 Classy Cleo, 9-1 others.

1996: KINGSINGER 8-6 T Quinn (9-2) M Channon 12 ran

2.30 MARCH HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,110: 7f) (22 runners)

201 (11) 265400- MUJOVA 142 (F) (J Graham) R Hollinshead 9-7 F Lynch (3) 96
202 (4) 24211-1 EFFERVESCENCE 79 (D,G) (Gold Buster Syndicate) R Hannon 9-5 Dane O'Neill 98
203 (13) 221640- RUDE AWAKENING 169 (F) (W Hill) C Fairhurst 9-4 R Cochrane 86
204 (2) 341020- BLAZING CASTLE 221 (F) (Mrs D Wetherall) W G M Turner 9-3 D McGaffin (7) 93
205 (8) 43052- RAINBOW RAIN 158 (M Al Maktoum) M Johnston 9-2 J Weaver 97
206 (6) 25014-0 I CAN'T REMEMBER 17 (C,D,F,G,S) (P Graham Racing) P Evans 9-2 J F Egan 95
207 (1) 331-432 NOMORE MR NICEGUY 52 (D,G) (Mrs C McPhail) E Alston 9-2 K Fallon 98
208 (21) 331-625 ULTRA BOY 57 (BF,F) (Pet Express) P Haslam 9-0 S Drowne 87
209 (10) 021100- DOUBLE GOLD 192 (D,F,G) (M Edwards) B Meehan 8-13 M Tebbutt 90
210 (20) 4160-00 A BREEZE 30 (F) (Mirror Punters) D Morris 8-12 N Day 93
211 (19) 2256-61 TINKERBELL 7 (V,D,G) (J Jannaway) W Muir 8-11 J Reid 95
212 (22) 323233- SANDBAGGEDAGAIN 163 (Mrs C Hanbury) M W Easterby 8-11 T Quinn 93
213 (3) 0021-0 JAY-OWE-TWO 78 (BF,G) (R Whitaker) R Whitaker 8-9 Pat Eddery 94
214 (9) 020- FULLOPEP 144 (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 8-9 K Darley 87
215 (17) 01-5301 LA DOLCE VITA 19 (D,G) (S Woodall) T Barron 8-9 Kimberley Hart (7) 98
216 (18) 3100- LEVELLED 147 (G) (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 8-8 R Perham 90
217 (15) 0625- SHARE DELIGHT 85 (A Morton) B Hills 8-6 M Hills ●
218 (5) 0040- MUNGO PARK 134 (Mrs H Carr) Mrs J Ramsden 8-6 J Fortune 94
219 (18) 432050- JACK FLUSH 152 (D Smith) B Rothwell 8-4 M Fenton 91
220 (14) 055- BOLLIN TERRY 197 (N Westbrook) T Easterby 8-3 J Carroll 86
221 (7) 384205- RUM LAD 166 (B Shaw) J Quinn 8-3 J Quinn 85
222 (12) 036- IVORY DAWN 233 (D Ivory) K Ivory 8-2 Martin Dwyer (3) 87

BETTING: 6-1 Effervescence, 7-1 Sandbaggedagain, 8-1 Mungo Park, Rainbow Rain, Share Delight, 10-1 others

1996: SUALTACH 9-1 L Detton (16-1) R Hollinshead 14 ran

3.00 GAINSBOROUGH SPRING CONDITIONS STAKES C4
(3-Y-O: £5,840: 1m) (12 runners)

301 (5) 152330- PELHAM 156 (F,G) (D Lucie-Smith) R Hannon 9-3 Dane O'Neill 90
302 (11) 1- POSEIDON 186 (G) (Allevamento SRL) M Channon 9-3 Paul Eddery –
303 (8) 1-1 HAYES WAY 44 (D,G) (A Ward) T Mills 9-1 S Sanders 88
304 (3) 12- INDIAN SPARK 311 (C,G) (F Brady) W G M Turner 9-1 T Sprake 93
305 (9) 412- DANETIME 154 (G) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 8-13 Pat Eddery 95
306 (12) 2-10321 FOOT BATTALION 14 (D,G) (J Bigg) R Hollinshead 8-13 F Lynch (3) 95
307 (10) 1- HANDSOME RIDGE 134 (C,S) (Platt Promotions) J Gosden 8-13 L Dettori 93
308 (2) 51- MUSALSAL 144 (D,G) (M Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-13 M Hills 85
309 (1) 411- CRAIGIEVAR 142 (F,S) (D Russell) J Fanshawe 8-11 D Harrison ●
310 (4) 131210- JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 124 (C,F,G,S) K McAuliffe 8-11 J F Egan 96
311 (7) 123623 MILLROY 17 (G) (Exors of R Balderson) P Kelleway 8-11 K Fallon 93
312 (6) 02421- POLAR FLIGHT 133 (C,D,S) (Middleham Partners) M Johnston 8-11 J Weaver 91

BETTING: 3-1 Handsome Ridge, 4-1 Musalsal, 5-1 Polar Flight, 11-2 Danetime, 6-1 Indian Spark, 12-1 Craigievar, 16-1 others

1996: ACHARNE 8-11 B Doyle (7-2) C Brittain 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

POSEIDON beat Iuponette 1l in 8-runner maiden at San Siro (6f, good). DANETIME best effort beat Indian Brave 1½l in 5-runner maiden at Newcastle (6f, good) on penultimate start. FOOT BATTALION beat Sabot ½l in 6-runner conditions race at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 100yd). HANDSOME RIDGE beat Ninth Chord 1l in 20-runner maiden here (7f, soft). MUSALSAL beat Kyle Rhea 2½l in 16-runner maiden at Leicester (1m, good). POLAR FLIGHT beat Silverani ½l in 16-runner maiden over course and distance (soft).
Selection: MUSALSAL

3.40 WORTHINGTON LINCOLN HANDICAP C4
(£42,955: 1m) (24 runners)

401 (11) 222320- RUSSIAN MUSIC 149 (F) (Seventh Heaven) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-10 D Holland 91
402 (22) 22124- GRAND MUSICA 164 (G) (Mech 3) I Balding 4-8-13 L Dettori 93
403 (9) 0100-12 NEW CENTURY 14 (CD,BF,F,G) (A Bloodstock) D Nicholls 5-8-12 Alex Greaves 98
404 (15) 20/2300- ROVING MINSTREL 320 (CD,F,G,S) B McMahon 6-8-11 R Cochrane 90
405 (16) 440-222 SABOT 14 (BF,F) (G Reed) C Thornton 4-8-10 D McKeown 95
406 (1) 3/4043-2 DEFINED FEATURE 24 (F) (D Johnson) J Scargill 4-8-10 M Hills 90
407 (7) 500050- STONE RIDGE 132 (CD,F,S) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 5-8-9 Dane O'Neill 94
408 (19) 4-63423 PATER NOSTER 14 (D,G,S) (New Windows) J A Harris 8-8-9 S Sanders 92
409 (6) 262510- HAWKSLEY HILL 140 (D,F,G) (P Morrison) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-9 J Fortune 93
410 (23) 011005- SKY DOME 140 (D,F,G) (Miss D Merson) M Tompkins 4-8-7 M Henry (3) 94
411 (17) 0033/00- HUNTERS OF BRORA 208 (D,F,S) (R Gibbons) J Bethell 7-8-6 J Reid –
412 (18) 006401- KALA SUNRISE 164 (D,F,G) (A Needham) C Smith 4-8-6 J F Egan 95
413 (8) 160610- WHITTLE ROCK 203 (F,G) (Bay Horse Racing) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-6 K Darley 89
414 (21) 5416-4 KUALA LIPIS 14 (D,G) (A Shah) P Cole 4-8-6 T Quinn 90
415 (13) 4/31163- ALAMEIN 260 (B,F,G) (H De Kwiatkowski) W Haggas 4-8-5 K Fallon 91
416 (20) 11015/ ROCKFORCE 589 (D,F) (G Mizel) M Channon 5-8-5 Pat Eddery –
417 (4) 1/50003- TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 145 (B,F,S) B Meehan 4-8-5 M Tebbutt ●
418 (24) 0013- PUSEY STREET GIRL 275 (G) (C Marks) M Bosley 4-8-5 R Perham 90
419 (14) 061001- HAZARD A GUESS 163 (C,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-9-4 Iona Wands (7) 91
420 (2) 210210- NEUWEST 217 (D,F) (P Green) N Walker 5-8-3 C Rutter 93
421 (12) 23211-6 BAROSSA VALLEY 60 (G) (C Wilson) P Butler 6-8-2 D Sweeney (5) 92
422 (5) 1/3000-0 CARBURTON 22 (B,C,F,S) (B Fim) J Glover 4-8-2 G Carter 89
423 (10) 1606-60 IAMUS 19 (D,F) (M Bailey's Settlement) T Barron 4-8-2 D Harrison 87
424 (3) 311030- LA PETITE FUSEE 151 (F,G,S) (M Bevan) R O'Sullivan 6-8-1 J Bramhill (5) 93

BETTING: 8-1 Hawksley Hill, 9-1 Alamein, 10-1 Grand Musica, Kuala Lipis, New Century, Sky Dome, Tumbleweed Ridge, 12-1 Roving Minstrel, 16-1 Rockforce, Russian Music, 20-1 Carburton, Whittle Rock, 25-1 others

1996: STONE RIDGE 4-8-7 Dane O'Neill (33-1) R Hannon 24 ran

FORM FOCUS

RUSSIAN MUSIC best effort ¾l 2nd of 14 to Prince Babar in apprentice conditions race at Ascot (1m, good) on penultimate start. ROVING MINSTREL best effort about 2½l 3rd of 14 to Tarawa in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) Apr 96. HAWKSLEY HILL beat High Premium 1½l in 27-runner handicap at Newmarket (1m, good). KALA SUNRISE beat Hal's Pal ¾l in 10-runner handicap at York (1m, good) with GRAND MUSICA (2lb better off) about 1½l 4th.
ROCKFORCE best effort beat Mister Fire Eyes neck in 6-runner handicap at Ripon (1m 1f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 1l 3rd of 4 to Mashmoum in conditions race at Leicester (7f, good)
Selection: ROVING MINSTREL (nap)

4.15 MIDLAND COPYING DONCASTER SHIELD CONDITIONS STAKES C4
(£7,309: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

501 (2) 1/100- PROSPECTOR'S COVE 265 (G,S) (Saracen Racing) J Pearce 4-9-0 G Bardwell 84
502 (1) 0- CHAI-YO 143 (N Viney) J Old 7-8-12 G Duffield –
503 (3) 0006-02 MAJOR CHANGE 17 (F) (Two In One Partners) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-12 D Holland 90
504 (4) 132520- SHEER DANZIG 133 (F,G) (R Arculli) R Armstrong 5-8-12 L Dettori 93
505 (7) 0/33124- DESERT MOUNTAIN 123 (D,G) N Callaghan 4-8-10 Pat Eddery –
506 (5) 060000- NORTHERN DRUMS 159 (Internet Racing) N Babbage 4-8-10 T Sprake –
507 (6) 224126- WILAWANDER 189 (S) (M Al Maktoum) B Hills 4-8-10 M Hills ●

BETTING: 11-10 Wilawander, 7-2 Prospector's Cove, 9-2 Sheer Danzig, 6-1 Desert Mountain, 10-1 others.

1996: JUYUSH 4-9-4 W Carson (5-1) B Hills 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

PROSPECTOR'S COVE best effort beat Prince Of My Heart ½l in 7-runner conditions race at Kempton (1m 2f, good), Apr 96. MAJOR CHANGE ¾l 2nd of 8 to Albaha in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f). SHEER DANZIG best effort 1¼l 2nd of 20 to Better Offer in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start. DESERT MOUNTAIN 5l 4th of 8 to Song Of The Sword in conditions race at Roscommon (1m 4f, good to firm). WILAWANDER 11¾l 6th of 11 to Shantou in group 1 St Leger here (1m 6f 132yd, good to firm).
Selection: PROSPECTOR'S COVE

4.45 CAMMIDGE TROPHY C4
(Listed race: £12,275: 6f) (8 runners)

601 (1) 161802- PASSION FOR LIFE 154 (D,F,G) (D Waters) G Lewis 4-9-7 Pat Eddery ●
602 (6) 022300- VENTURE CAPITALIST 211 (D,F,G) (W Sewers) D Nicholls 8-9-7 Alex Greaves 92
603 (6) 064111- ASTRAC 120 (CD,F,G,S) (T Beecroft) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-5 D Holland 98
604 (4) 203200- EASY DOLLAR 211 (B,D,F,G) (B Gubby) B Gubby 5-9-2 A Clark 89
605 (2) 000525- KING OF PERU 165 (D,F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 4-9-2 W J O'Connor 85
606 (7) 11/0610- ROYAL APPLAUSE 198 (CD,F,G) (M Al Maktoum) B Hills 4-9-2 M Hills 86
607 (3) 032054- WARNING TIME 239 (D,F,G) (F Wilson) B Meehan 4-9-2 M Tebbutt 82
608 (5) 100100- PATSY GRIMES 175 (D,F,G,S) (J Grimes) J Moore 7-8-11 L Dettori 85

BETTING: 7-4 Passion For Life, 5-2 Royal Applause, 5-1 Venture Capitalist, 6-1 Astrac, 8-1 others.

1996: FIRE DOME 4-9-2 R Hughes (11-1) R Hannon 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

PASSION FOR LIFE 1½l 2nd of 15 to Russian Revival in listed race at Newmarket (6f, good). VENTURE CAPITALIST best effort 6l 7th of 30 to Coastal Bluff in handicap at Goodwood (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start, with ASTRAC (18lb worse off) 9¼l 19th. ASTRAC beat Linoise 1l in listed race at Evry (6f, very soft). EASY DOLLAR best effort neck 2nd of 15 to Jayannpee in listed race at Newmarket (6f, good to firm) Jul 96, with VENTURE CAPITALIST (5lb better off) ¾l 3rd. KING OF PERU best effort 1½l 2nd to Midnight Blue in conditions race at Hamilton (6f, good to soft) on penultimate start. ROYAL APPLAUSE beat Russian Revival neck in conditions race at Doncaster (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: ROYAL APPLAUSE

5.15 SELBY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,525: 6f) (8 runners)

1 (8) 0224- CADEAUX CHER 176 (N Browne) B Hills 9-0 M Hills 93
2 (5) COLWAY RITZ (R Coleman) J Watts 9-0 G Duffield –
3 (1) 00 HEATHYARD'S FLIGHT 8 (L Morgan) R Hollinshead 9-0 W Ryan –
4 (7) 42- MILE HIGH 234 (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 9-0 Pat Eddery ●
5 (2) PROMINENT (Platinum Racing) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 J Fortune –
6 (6) 242500- THE GAY FOX 142 (G Whitaker) B McMahon 9-0 R Cochrane 97
7 (4) 34- WILD SKY 123 (Gold Partners) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 S Drowne 98
8 (3) 0- SILENT MIRACLE 196 (M Khan) M Bell 8-9 M Fenton 83

BETTING: 2-1 Mile High, 9-4 Cadeaux Cher, 5-1 The Gay Fox, 7-1 Wild Sky, 8-1 Prominent, 10-1 others.

1996: GREEN BARRIES 9-0 J Weaver (4-1 fav) M Johnston 15 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Babbage	3	10	30.0	D Holland	9	47	19.1
R Armstrong	10	39	25.6	L Dettori	35	187	18.7
Miss G Kelleway	6	26	23.1	M Hills	26	151	17.2
J Gosden	29	130	22.3	C Rutter	3	19	15.8
P Cole	10	55	18.2	W Ryan	19	121	15.7
B Hills	25	142	17.6	S Sanders	6	39	15.4

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
1.15 Senor El Betrutti
1.45 Mim-Lou-And
2.15 River Bay
2.50 Song Of The Sword
3.20 Red Branch
3.55 JOHN DRUMM (nap)
4.30 Harris Croft Star

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD (HURDLES) SIS

1.15 BROWN CHAMBERLIN HANDICAP CHASE BBC1
(£6,853: 3m) (4 runners)

1 5P3611 SENOR EL BETRUTTI 16 (F,G,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 8-11-13 J Osborne 91
2 511-255 VALIANT WARRIOR 35 (F,G,S) (P Sellars) M Hammond 9-11-4 R Garritty ●
3 P-65P53 PYR FOUR 12 (G,S) (S Gray) G McCourt 10-11-0 D Bridgwater 87
4 0130/53 DARREN THE BRAVE 36 (D,BF,S) (D Allport) C Brooks 9-10-0 C Llewellyn 90

Long handicap: Darren The Brave 9-3.

BETTING: 4-6 Senor El Betrutti, 7-2 Valiant Warrior, 9-2 Darren The Brave, 8-1 Pyr Four

1996: SUNY BAY 7-11-12 G Bradley (11-4) C Brooks 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SENOR EL BETRUTTI beat Hawaiian Youth 1¼l in 5-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 5f, good). Previously beat Southampton 10l in 3-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, good). VALIANT WARRIOR best effort 16l 2nd of 3 to General Command in handicap chase at Haydock (2m 4f, good to soft) Dec 96. PYR FOUR 10l 3rd of 7 to Church Law in handicap chase at Stratford (3m, good). DARREN THE BRAVE 26l 3rd of 9 to Arctic Wings in handicap chase at Fakenham (3m 110yd, good)
Selection: SENOR EL BETRUTTI

1.45 LAMBOURN HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1
(£4,884: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1 0-20106 KADASTROF 14 (D,G,S) (A Paton) R Dickin 7-11-11 X Aizpuru (7) 96
2 2F1-4PF ASHWELL BOY 63 (D,F,G,S) (A S Racing) P Hobbs 6-11-10 D Bridgwater 91
3 113320 HAMILTON SILK 9 (D,F,G) (Elite Racing Club) M Pipe 5-11-10 J Osborne 98
4 2315-F0 SHANKAR 14 (CD,G,S) (Int Plywood Plc) D Nicholson 6-11-6 Mr R Thornton (5) 97
5 11-3415 FORESTAL 14 (D,G,S) (S Griffiths) S Griffiths 5-10-9 T J Murphy 98
6 2-F24U4 BLAIR CASTLE 14 (D,F) (Highflyers) G Balding 6-10-6 M A Fitzgerald 90
7 112FF3 RADANPOUR 72 (D,G) (T Pollock) J Howard Johnson 5-10-4 A S Smith ●
8 1-24203 MIM-LOU-AND 21 (D,F,G) (J Martin) Mrs H Knight 5-10-4 J Culloty 94

BETTING: 3-1 Forestal, 4-1 Hamilton Silk, 9-2 Mim-Lou-And, 6-1 Ashwell Boy, 8-1 Shankar, Blair Castle, 10-1 others.

1996: KINGSFOLD PET 7-11-8 D Skyrme (5-1) M Haynes 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

KADASTROF best effort beat Ambleside 3l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good). HAMILTON SILK best effort 9l 2nd of 18 to Make A Stand in grade III Tote Gold Trophy handicap hurdle over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. SHANKAR best effort 6½l 5th of 15 to Tragic Hero in grade II Seagram Top Novices' hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good) Mar 96, with HAMILTON SILK (15lb worse off) 28l 9th. FORESTAL best effort beat Bolivar 2½l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start, with KADASTROF (10lb better off) 18l 9th. RADANPOUR about 2½l 2nd of 4 to Liss De Paor in grade III novice hurdle at Thurles (2m 4f, good). MIM-LOU-AND about 20l 3rd of 11 to Edgemoor Prince in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good).
Selection: HAMILTON SILK

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doncaster: 3.40 Carburton. Lingfield Park: 2.40 Millennium Lass Tigana, 3.30 Napoleon's Gold. Newbury: 2.50 Don't Mind If I Do, Las Animas

2.15 HOECHST ROUSSEL VET PANACUR EBF MARES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1
(Final £10,502 2m 5f) (11 runners)

1 3-21122 POTTER'S GALE 35 (F,G,S) (J Porter) D Nicholson 6-12-0 Mr R Thornton (5) 89
2 2142 FIDDLING THE FACTS 21 (BF,S) (Mrs E Roberts) N Henderson 6-11-10 M A Fitzgerald ●
3 3-P1521 KONVEKTA QUEEN 16 (D,F,S) (Konvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 6-11-8 J Osborne 88
4 1-12F41 LUCIA FORTE 44 (F,G) (Mrs L Farmer) K Bailey 6-11-8 C O'Dwyer 90
5 33-0213 RIVER BAY 52 (S) (Riverwood Racing) Miss H Knight 6-11-5 J Culloty 85
6 36041 FANTASY LINE 24 (S) (Mrs P Starkey) P Webber 6-11-2 A Thornton 87
7 1313 BULA VOGUE 22 (S) (The In Vogue Partnership) R Rowe 7-11-0 D O'Sullivan 88
8 P31-010 DAISY DAYS 34 (G,S) (The Sun Punters Club) J Howard Johnson 7-10-12 A S Smith 89
9 01-145 GAYE FAME 57 (D,S) (R Cronin) K Bailey 6-10-12 S McNeill 88
10 62-0002 LOCH NA KEAL 10 (S Kimber) C Morlock 5-10-0 C Llewellyn 85
11 04-P200 JOY FOR LIFE 45 (The Equus Club) R Strange 6-10-0 X Aizpuru (7) 92

Long handicap: Joy For Life 8-13

BETTING: 9-4 Potter's Gale, 4-1 Fiddling The Facts, 5-1 Konvekta Queen, 6-1 Fantasy Line, 7-1 Lucia Forte, 8-1 River Bay, 10-1 Gaye Fame, 12-1 others

1996: OATIS ROSE 6-10-0 P Carberry (33-1) M Sheppard 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

POTTER'S GALE best effort 1½l 2nd of 12 to Boardroom Shuffle in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start. FIDDLING THE FACTS 2½l 2nd of 13 to Spring Double in novice hurdle over course and distance (good to soft). KONVEKTA QUEEN beat Lady High Sheriff 5l in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft). LUCIA FORTE beat Lady Peta 1¾l in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm). RIVER BAY about 9l 3rd of 9 to Scoundrel in novice hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, good to firm). DAISY DAYS best effort beat Lippy Louise 10l in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: LUCIA FORTE

2.50 FINAL NOVICES HURDLE (Div I £3,169 2m 110yd) (19 runners)

1 066 BALLYRANTER 49 (P Byrnes) M Hammond 5-11-7 R Garritty 71
2 0 BON LUCK 50 (Nat. Housden Pnrs) J Bennett 5-11-7 L Harvey –
3 000-00P DON'T MIND IF I DO 60 (B) (Mrs J Addison) P Webber 6-11-7 A Thornton 50
4 42-65 GET REAL 22 (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 6-11-7 M A Fitzgerald 89
5 0-00404 I RECALL 21 (V) (Mrs S Coplestone) P Hayward 6-11-7 S McNeill 70
6 35 KEEN BID 12 (S Seal) Mrs L Richards 6-11-7 M Richards 80
7 0P NO MATTER 60 (A Cooper) R Rowe 6-11-7 D Bridgwater –
8 0U PEALINGS 37 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-11-7 Mr R Thornton (5) –
9 PEERS FOLLY (Lord Donoughue) Miss H Knight 7-11-7 J F Titley –
10 RIPARIUS 215F (Mrs D Blackburn) P Webber 6-11-7 R Bellamy –
11 526545 SWAN STREET 11 (BF) (Stamford Bridge Pnrs) C Mann 6-11-7 J Railton 70
12 5 TARRAGON 685 (P Holt) O Sherwood 7-11-7 J Osborne –
13 0P CUILLIN 15 (S Branton) R Smith 5-11-2 T J Murphy –
14 LAS ANIMAS 945F (B) (R Kirk) R Champion 6-11-2 B Powell –
15 U0 LIZIUM 112 (A Weymen) J Fox 5-11-2 S Fox –
16 00 HISAR 22 (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 4-10-13 C O'Dwyer 63
17 34 QUALITY 16 (BF) (D O Connor) P Hobbs 4-10-13 G Tormey ●
18 6 REGAL SPLENDOUR 16 (Miss S Jones) R O'Sullivan 4-10-13 D O'Sullivan –
19 SONG OF THE SWORD 176F (Lady Lloyd Webber) J Old 4-10-13 C Llewellyn –

BETTING: 11-4 Song Of The Sword, 4-1 Quality, 6-1 Get Real, 8-1 Riparius, 10-1 Tarragon, Peers Folly, 12-1 others

1996: DREAM RIDE 6-11-7 R Dunwoody (5-2 fav) D Nicholson 12 ran

3.20 MARCH NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,493 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 118082 MAMMY'S CHOICE 15 (S) (D Young) R Alner [illegible]-11-10 Mr R Thornton (5) 86
2 160F42 SPRING TO GLORY 7 (F,G) (A Byrnes) P Hayward 10-11-10 B Powell –
3 P2U111 RED BRANCH 4 (D,F,G) (E Hanson) J King [illegible] (5ex) T J Murphy 92
4 350153 KOO'S PROMISE 7 (F,G) (G Warren Ltd) C Popham 6-10-11 T Dascombe (3) 82
5 00-006 MUSIC CLASS 15 (Mrs P Elsbury) C Brooks 6-10-6 D Gallagher –
6 FP56P-0 LAGHAM LAD 43 (Mrs S Pilkington-Smith) D Arbuthnot 6-10-6 S McNeill –
7 0-602 BOOTS N ALL 40 (Mrs T Tippett) G Balding [illegible] R Greene ●

BETTING: 6-4 Red Branch, 7-2 Boots N All, 9-2 Koo's Promise, 7-1 Mammy's Choice, 8-1 Music Class, 10-1 Spring To Glory, 16-1 Lagham Lad

1996: COOLREE 5-11-10 A P McCoy [illegible] P F Nicholls 5 ran

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.55 FINAL NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £3,148: 2m 110yd) (13 runners)

1 44P ABSOLUTE LIMIT 14 (B Wootton) J Gifford 5-11-7 L Aspell (3) 86
2 5 CLASSY LAD 28 (M Buckley) N Henderson 7-11-7 M A Fitzgerald ●
3 410-052 JOHN DRUMM 35 (G,S) (A Jenkins) P Webber 6-11-7 J Osborne 94
4 F06 MAETERLINCK 19 (G Thorner) G Thorner 5-11-7 Clare Thorner (7) 67
5 344-5P0 OUT FOR A DUCK 24 (Miss S Haynes) H Haynes 6-11-7 Mr S Durack (7) 60
6 P0 PALARICO 17 (Mrs J Webber) P Webber 7-11-7 R Bellamy –
7 REAL MADRID 25F (C Wall) G Enright 6-11-7 Mr R Thornton (5) –
8 0 ROYAL TEAM 58 (L Pike) M Wilkinson 5-11-7 D Gallagher –
9 SPECTACLE JIM 9F (P Bedford) B Pearce 8-11-7 Gordon Gallagher (7) –
10 3202 ZANDER 17 (Mrs K Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 C Llewellyn 84
11 P HONEYSHAN 16 (T Cooper) D ffrench Davis 5-11-2 S McNeill –
12 LUCKY ARCHER 158F (The Parishioners) P Hobbs 4-10-13 D Bridgwater –
13 SADLER'S REALM 213F (B Racing) P Hobbs 4-10-13 G Tormey –

BETTING: 9-4 John Drumm, 4-1 Classy Lad, 5-1 Zander, 8-1 Sadler's Realm, Lucky Archer, 10-1 others.

1996: DREAM RIDE 6-11-7 R Dunwoody (5-2 fav) D Nicholson 12 ran

4.30 SPRING NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,320: 2m 110yd) (25 runners)

1 61 COUNTRY BEAU 28 (D,G) (Mrs J Popplatt) J King 5-11-11 M Richards –
2 1 HARRIS CROFT STAR 28 (D,G) (R Nutland) D Nicholson 6-11-11 R Massey (3) –
3 31 BESSIE BROWNE 15 (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-11-6 Mr R Thornton (5) –
4 ANOTHER RUMPUS (Mrs Z Clark) C Morlock 5-11-4 D Fortt (3) –
5 032 BOLD LEAP 21 (Two Generations Pnrs) P Webber 5-11-4 Mr A Sansome –
6 0 CATHAY 30 (R & E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4 D Leahy –
7 32 DAMIEN'S CHOICE 36 (M Sawers) Mrs Merrita Jones 5-11-4 Derek Byrne –
8 4 GOLDEN EAGLE 14 (P Oldfield) N Henderson 5-11-4 M A Fitzgerald –
9 ICKFORD OKEY (P Morgan) C Morlock 5-11-4 D Gallagher –
10 JUST NORMAN (J Sunley) Miss H Knight 6-11-4 J Culloty –
11 KEYNOTE (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 5-11-4 J Osborne –
12 MAD HARRY (W Ives) K Bailey 5-11-4 C O'Dwyer –
13 REGAL SPRING (J Gost) K Bailey 5-11-4 S McNeill –
14 SILVER TREASURE (N Vigart) Mrs M Jones 5-11-4 M Lane (7) –
15 4 WAR PAINT 35 (Autotour Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4 Mr G Baines (7) –
16 WHISTLING RUFUS (The Ayumad Partnership) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 C Maude –
17 CLAN ROSS (I Sandell) D Elsworth 6-10-13 P Holley –
18 GLEVUM (Mrs J Powell) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-13 C Llewellyn –
19 HACK ON (Mrs A Goodwin) P Hobbs 5-10-13 G Tormey –
20 PHAR BETTER OFF (Mrs J Bailey) J Mullins 6-10-13 S Curran –
21 BROWJOSHY (B L Racing) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-10 J F Titley –
22 3 JIM'S QUEST 65 (J Weeden) P Hobbs 4-10-10 D Bridgwater –
23 ZABARI (P Orme) G Thorner 4-10-10 B Powell –
24 0 KABYLIE QUEST 14 (A Paton) R Dickin 4-10-5 X Aizpuru (7) –
25 MRY LEADER (Mrs D MacRae) Mrs J Cecil 4-10-5 T Kent –

BETTING: 3-1 Country Beau, 4-1 Harris Croft Star, 5-1 War Paint, 6-1 Golden Eagle, Just Norman, 10-1 others.

1996: FRENCH HOLLY 5-11-6 K Whelan (Evens fav) F Murphy 14 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Mrs J Cecil	3	5	60.0	T Kent	3	5	60.0
D Nicholson	30	115	26.1	J Osborne	40	151	26.5
O Sherwood	16	65	24.6	D Fortt	3	13	23.1
D Elsworth	11	51	21.6	P Holley	13	66	19.7

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, first race 2.20), Hexham (2.00), Ludlow (2.10)
TUESDAY: Newcastle (2.35), Sandown Park (2.15), Southwell (2.25)
WEDNESDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.20), Folkestone (2.10), Ascot (BBC, 2.00).
THURSDAY: Leicester (2.10), Lingfield Park (AW, 2.30), Musselburgh (2.20)
FRIDAY: No meetings
SATURDAY: Haydock Park (BBC, 1.15), Kempton Park (C4, 1.40), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Carlisle (2.05), Newton Abbot (1.30), Plumpton (2.25), Towcester (2.20)
Flat meetings in bold

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10/1 Kuala Lipis
10/1 New Century
10/1 Sky Dome
12/1 Roving Minstrel
16/1 Rockforce
16/1 Russian Music
20/1 Carburton
20/1 Whittle Rock
25/1 Defined Feature
25/1 Hunters of Brora
25/1 Kala Sunrise
25/1 Neuwest
25/1 Sabot
25/1 Stone Ridge
33/1 Barossa Valley
33/1 Pater Noster
40/1 Hazard A Guess
50/1 Iamus
50/1 La Petite Fusee
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9/1 Pater Noster
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14/1 La Petite Fusee
14/1 Pusey Street Girl
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RUGBY UNION

Sale strive for higher level of security

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE North's three first division clubs travel south today for matches which, though only one more step along the demanding Courage Clubs Championship way, could yet mean make or break for them. That the club programme has been truncated by representative calls means nothing to those preoccupied with domestic demands.

Sale, who play weakened Bristol at the Memorial Ground, have furthest to go, having played only 13 matches, and have nine remaining to be crammed in at a time when the juicy prospect of a first appearance in the Pilkington Cup final beckons. In that time, however, they could yet qualify for European rugby next season and achieve some financial security.

They lie fifth in the table and, though they may suffer from absenteeism, few would bet against their beating a Bristol team shorn of Mark Regan and Simon Shaw, the injured England forwards, and David Corkery, the Ireland flanker. Moreover, Sale's success this season has attracted the attention of potential investors, one of whom will be recommended to a club members' meeting on April 10.

England, the holders, came through the opening day of the Rugby World Cup sevens in Hong Kong with comfortable victories over Canada and Zimbabwe yesterday, which eased their route to the knockout stage tomorrow. The only blemish was an injury to Richard Hill.

In financial terms, Sale have muddled through the first fully-professional season of club rugby, riding on the backs of players inspired by the now-departed Paul Turner and hardened by John Mitchell, their player-coach from New Zealand.

Should their members accept the recommendations of the club management for what Howard Thomas, the chief executive, describes as "the most favourable deal to have gone through so far" — which would give the investor the professional rugby rights while leaving a members' club intact — then Sale have the prospect of throwing off their unfashionable tag.

At the other end of the table lie West Hartlepool and, propping up the other 11 clubs, Orrell. West are unlikely to win at Harlequins this afternoon but have a realistic chance of avoiding one of the two definite relegation places. They have only six league matches after today and have been sustained by the good form of Ivan Morgan and Jamie Connolly, their imports from Canterbury in New Zealand's South Island.

Moreover, their long-term casualties are nearing fitness: George Truelove returns to the wing after a long absence, David Mitchell should be fit for the April programme, so should Gareth Rowlands, the Canada lock. West accept that they are likely to be involved in the end-of-season play-offs with the third and fourth-placed clubs in the second division but at least that keeps the first-division door open.

That same door is fast slamming on Orrell. Two wins from 14 games is a record they are hardly likely to improve at Sudbury against top-of-the-table Wasps, who expect to include Lawrence Dallaglio, recovered from the tonsillitis that kept him out of the international in Cardiff last week and the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong. Peter Scrivener stands in for Chris Sheasby.

At a members' meeting this week, Ron Pimblett, the Orrell chairman, outlined the positive steps his committee hopes to take. "We want to appoint a general manager and a coach, the sooner the better," he said. "The membership clearly does not want an owner. We have 17½ acres of our own and we want to use it properly. We have always had good players but it's money holding us back, so we must find ways of raising it, from our own efforts and from increased sponsorship."

The Rugby World Cup sevens has hit not only the English league programme but also the quarter-finals of the Swalec Cup in Wales. Two ties, Neath v Swansea and Ebbw Vale v Bridgend, will be played next weekend but today there are one-way tickets for Pontypool to Llanelli and South Wales Police to Cardiff. Should either second-division club win, it would go down in cup history.

ROBERTO SCHMIDT

Williams on her way to a comfortable first-round victory at the Lipton Championships in Florida yesterday

Williams springs the rat trap

From Alix Ramsay in Key Biscayne

IT TAKES a lot to upstage Venus Williams on a tennis court. At 6ft 2in and all legs, beads and elbows as she gives the ball a hefty clout, the rising star in the American firmament makes news wherever she goes. However, on her first appearance outside California and her debut at the Lipton Championships, even she was demoted to a supporting role as a rat stole the show.

Williams was cruising through her first-round match against Ginger Helgeson Neilson, a set ahead and 1-0 up, when a courtside commotion brought proceedings to a halt. With squeals and screams, the spectators ran for cover as a rat scuttled around the seating. Helgeson Neilson was having none of it and made for the locker-room as the tournament staff spent 20 minutes catching and evicting the interloper.

At least it gave Helgeson Neilson a chance to regroup and, by the time she got back to work, she gave Williams a run for her money for a set, at least. It was to no avail, however, as Williams took her place in the next round 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. She now faces Jennifer Capriati for the chance to meet Martina Hingis.

Both Hingis and Capriati watched closely as Williams made her unusual debut. Both of them have been through the media mill and, as they cast an experienced eye over the much vaunted arrival of the young superstar, they might have been forgiven for thinking they had seen it all before.

Results 53

Capriati, 20, is already well into the second comeback of her career and, compared with Williams, is a positive veteran. As for Hingis, three months younger than Williams, she has won nearly as many titles as Williams has played tournaments and yet they both turned professional at the same time, in 1994.

While Hingis has matured as a player and a person, realising six months ago that she had what it took to win a grand slam and then working towards achieving that goal in January, Williams still worries about her geometry homework and giggles over jokes with her sister.

Until this year, Williams has been kept away from the grind of the circuit by her father, Richard, although now he is prepared to let his daughter venture out of the Unites States for the first time — to play in Rome, Paris, Eastbourne and Wimbledon. Maybe. The plans may change depending on "me changing my mind", according to Venus.

It all must be a touch galling for the other new hope on the horizon, Anna Kournikova. While Williams can play when and where she wants but just choses not to, Kournikova is hemmed in from all sides.

A year younger than Williams, at 15, she is limited as to the number of tournaments she is allowed to play — this year it is ten, next year 13. With the new rankings system employed by the WTA, Kournikova feels that her young career has ground to a halt and she is rooted to the spot at No 90 in the world.

"I think, if I had the chance, I could play a little bit more to get some more experience," she said. "Every other girl is playing almost every other week and I can only play ten. Of course, they will get better than me, even if I win all my ten."

Putting such thoughts aside, she still made light work of Nana Miyagi on Thursday evening, skipping into the next round 6-2, 6-0. Sam Smith, Great Britain's sole qualifier, could not match that sort of performance and lost to Jana Kandarr, from Germany, 6-7, 6-1, 7-5.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Platt dreams of Wembley in Indian summer

Christopher Irvine talks to the prop anchoring the success of Salford

Six months ago, Andy Platt would scarcely have imagined that he would still be playing, let alone be involved in a semi-final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup at Wigan today. After two highly enjoyable seasons at Auckland Warriors and turned 33, the former Great Britain prop forward was ready to end his career when the call arrived from unfashionable Salford and Andy Gregory, a sparring partner from his Wigan heyday.

Gregory, the Salford coach, is one of life's charmers, but no amount of his sweet talk was going to persuade Platt. A chat with the fitness conditioner at Auckland did. "I mentioned that I was thinking of finishing and he told me I would regret it so much because of the way I was playing," he said. "I discussed it with my wife and she agreed. You're a long time retired. Then, bingo, I'm here, not regretting a minute of it."

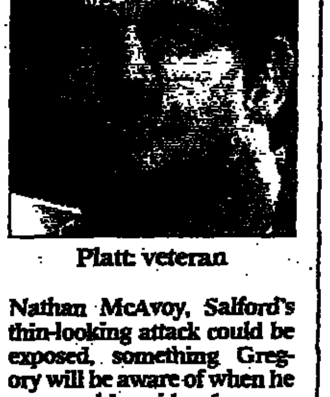
Platt admitted he had his doubts at first about Salford. "They were a side coming up to Super League from the first division and I was concerned," he said. "What I hadn't given them credit for was the talent that's here. Greg [Gregory] told me they were a club going places and he's right. There's a great spirit. Not too serious, but serious when it matters. I'm the old guy around here, but there are a few of us oldies who feel like 21 again."

Knee and hamstring injuries have reminded Platt this week that he is not as young as he might feel, but tweaks and strains are unlikely to prevent enjoyment of his nostalgia trip this afternoon. He has not played at Central Park since he left Wigan, with whom he won six Challenge Cup winners' medals, at the end of the 1993-94 season. Auckland was supposed to be his swansong, but Platt is still hitting the advantage line quicker and harder than most props.

His only losing Wembley Cup final appearance was in 1987 for St Helens, today's opponents and the holders. "We're realists," he said. "You have to be at Salford. Saints tasted success last year and they'll have the appetite again. You only had to see them against London Broncos, when the Broncos dominated for 80 per cent of Sunday's game, to know they are a good side. They grinded that result out. I don't know if we can play any better than the Broncos. It will take an effort as good as theirs, then we need to cut down on errors and come up with a bit of luck."

If experience counts for anything, Salford's so-called "Dad's Army" can be relied upon not to make it easy for St Helens. Platt and three other newcomers to the pack this season — John Cartwright, the inspirational Australian, David Hulme and Esene Faimalo — are all over 30. At 32, Paul Forber, another former St Helens player, is also playing some of the best rugby of his life alongside Cartwright in the second row. Salford have looked watertight in defence in progressing to only their third post-war Cup semi-final. In their opening Super League game last Sunday, they shut out Castleford altogether.

However, a 4-0 victory also highlighted a problem of where tries are going to come from. Apart from the in-form Darren Rogers and Nathan McAvoy, Salford's thin-looking attack could be exposed, something Gregory will be aware of when he names his side from a 20-strong squad shortly before kick-off. St Helens are unchanged apart from the return on the bench of Derek McVey, the Australian forward, after a hairline fracture of the wrist.



Platt: veteran

There is a danger, too, of looking too far ahead. Gregory has been waxing lyrical about a possible ninth cup final appearance at Wembley — he never lost there as a player for Widnes and Wigan — and of taking his chairman, John Wilkinson, there for the first time. Gregory has never been short on confidence — he even squeezed in a trip to watch Manchester United at FC Porto in midweek — and, were Salford to win today, that self-belief would be justified.

CRICKET: RETURNING FAST BOWLER SALVAGES SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN'S DUBIOUS DECISION TO FIELD

Schultz precipitates Australia collapse

From Jack Bannister in Centurion

CENTURION PARK (South Africa won toss): Australia have scored 227 against South Africa

BRETT SCHULTZ, back in the South Africa side for the first time in 15 months, engineered a batting collapse after tea here yesterday that saw Australia slide from 190 for four to 227 all out.

Schultz, a left-arm fast bowler who has suffered from a succession of recent injuries, took four wickets in all, and three for 21 runs in a ten-over spell, including those of Michael Bevan and Shane Warne in three balls.

First of the three to fall was Steve Waugh, to a legside catch claimed by David Richardson, the wicketkeeper. Waugh was reluctant to leave the crease after a typical innings of 67, including nine fours from 132 balls faced.

In came Ian Healy, whose first run was gained after an impassioned appeal from Schultz for leg-before when the ball rebounded from the pad to cover. Next was a concerted appeal for a catch by Richardson off Bevan, who was squared up by a beauty. Not out, Mervyn Kitchen, the umpire, said, but the next ball was left alone and up went the finger.

Warne was next, given out leg-before for the third consecutive innings, with this one more out than he thought as he aimed to leg.

The final session rescued an ordinary day for South Africa. Too many Australians got themselves out to justify the decision of Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, to field first. A total of 227 would appear to prove his point, but final judgment must wait until the home side has batted.

The pitch was slow after three weeks of heavy rains, but there was surprisingly little lateral movement in the first two sessions. Matthew Hayden was the first of two batsmen to miss a straight ball — Mark Waugh was the other — as he played outside one from Schultz.

Matthew Elliott helped Mark Taylor to take the score to 60 before he hooked at Allan Donald and Schultz took a beautifully judged catch at long leg. Immediately after lunch, Waugh was beaten for pace by Donald, and a desperately struggling Taylor was caught off an inside edge off Lance Klusener as he threw the bat at a wide one.

The only fluent batting of the day, from Steve Waugh and Greg Blewett, put things into perspective and, at 190 for four, the home supporters in a crowd of 9,500 looked and sounded glum. Blewett got to 37 before he cut at one that bounced from Pat Symcox, the off spinner, and suddenly the day took off.

Donald's 150th Test wicket was that of Healy, caught down the leg side, and Glenn McGrath was bowled by Klusener in the ninetieth over.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Richardson b Klusener	38
M L Hayden b Schultz	10
M T G Elliott c Schultz b Donald	16
M E Waugh b Donald	5
S R Waugh c Richardson b Schultz	67
G S Blewett c Richardson b Symcox	37
M G Bevan lbw b Schultz	6
†I A Healy c Richardson b Donald	19
S K Warne lbw b Schultz	0
J N Gillespie not out	6
G D McGrath b Klusener	0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 7, nb 9)	21
Total	227

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-60, 3-72, 4-110, 5-190, 6-197, 7-212, 8-212, 9-226.

BOWLING: Donald 20-5-60-3; Schultz 20-4-52-4; Cronje 5-3-5-0; Klusener 14.5-5-23-2; Symcox 23-4-62-1; Kallis 7-2-20-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, A M Bacher, B M McMillan, D J Cullinan, *W J Cronje, J H Kallis, L Klusener, †D J Richardson, A A Donald, B N Schultz, P L Symcox.

Umpires: M J Kitchen (England) and C J Mitchley (South Africa).

	Depth (cm)		Conditions		Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
	L	U	Piste	Off/p				
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	50	170	good	varied	good	cloud	-2	20/3
(Excellent piste skiing everywhere; no queues)								
St Anton	45	275	good	powder	good	snow	4	21/3
(Still snowing; excellent conditions)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	140	160	good	powder	good	fine	-1	19/3
(Excellent skiing on powdery snow)								
Méribel	45	150	good	powder	good	sun	5	19/3
(All but lowest pistes in excellent shape)								
Tignes	135	200	good	powder	good	sun	-4	20/3
(Superb skiing conditions: powdery snow, blue skies)								
Val Thorens	100	220	good	powder	good	sun	0	20/3
(Wonderful skiing everywhere; brilliant sun and snow)								
ITALY								
Cortina	0	70	hard	varied	closed	fair	4	19/3
(Pistes holding up well in colder weather)								
Livigno	60	170	good	crusty	fair	fair	0	19/3
(Some runs windblown but mostly good)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	50	120	good	varied	fair	sun	0	20/3
(Odd bare patch but mostly very good skiing)								
Wengen	5	80	good	varied	fair	sun	4	20/3
(Excellent skiing on all middle and upper slopes)								
Zermatt	30	275	good	powder	hard	sun	-5	20/3
(30cm new snow; some of the best skiing this season)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

ATHLETICS

Africans prepare to dominate

From David Powell, Athletics Correspondent, in Turin

JON BROWN, the European cross country title-holder, took one look at the course here yesterday and wrote off his chances of becoming the first non-African men's world champion since Carlos Lopes in 1985. Of his prospects for the 25th world championships, taking place tomorrow, Brown said he would be "happy with anywhere in the top ten".

He believes it is possible, still, for a European to win at world level, but not here. "You could not design a course better for the Africans," he said — design being the key word. The 1,900-metre circuit was a roadway in the Parco del Valentino until Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), decided that something had to be done to make the world championships a popular spectator event. Or, more to the point, one that looked impressive on television.

If the crowds would not travel to out-of-town courses, Nebiolo concluded; the discipline would have to move to their doorstep. Truck-loads of earth were piled on to the roadway and turf laid neatly on top. One artificial cross-country course, cost $500,000.

Brown won his European title by a record 35 seconds on a muddy circuit. "The course here is not designed to interrupt speed," Brown said. "It is super-fast and the faster it is, the better for the Africans." The downhill start narrows quickly and anybody not sprinting the first 300 metres will be boxed in. Brown expects his first 400 metres, of the 12,300 metres, to be under 60 seconds.

Paul Tergat, from Kenya, seeking a third successive title, and Salah Hissou, of Morocco, who was runner-up last year, are the joint-favourites in the men's event. In the women's race, Paula Radcliffe, from Great Britain, and the Irish pair, Sonia O'Sullivan and Catherina McKiernan, are three contenders in an open field.

IN BRIEF

Success for Palace protesters

THE Crystal Palace athletics track and training facility, targeted for demolition in plans put before Bromley Council, has been reprieved after a campaign against the closure led by many of the leading names in track and field.

☐ **Snooker:** Peter Ebdon, who won the Thailand Open last week, beat Steve Davis 6-1 in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at Goffs, Co Kildare, yesterday.

☐ **Tennis:** Mark Petchey, a British Davis Cup regular for the past six years, has been dropped for the tie against Zimbabwe next month. His place has gone to Andrew Richardson.

☐ **Skiing:** Alain Baxter and Emma Carrick-Anderson retained their giant slalom titles at the British Land British national ski championships in Tignes, France, yesterday.

☐ **Basketball:** Russ Saunders, the Budweiser League's all-time leading scorer, has been suspended indefinitely by his club, Chester Jets, after failing a random drugs test.

☐ **Golf:** Oxford, seeking their sixth successive win, held a 3½-1½ lead over Cambridge after the first day of the University match at Royal St George's, Sandwich.

Cricket: Brian Lara, the West Indies batsman, has been advised to rest for six days after being treated for stress. He should be fit to face India in the third Test on March 27.

Robinson back on Wigan duty

By Christopher Irvine

JASON ROBINSON returns to the Wigan side for the Super League match against Castleford tomorrow night, having been injured since the Silk Cut Challenge Cup defeat away to St Helens six weeks ago.

The good news about Robinson, the Great Britain wing, is in contrast to that of Gary Connolly, his international colleague and another returnee from a winter stint in rugby union, who broke down in training this week.

Connolly's last game was three months ago for Harlequins. A knee injury has failed to heal and an operation could mean Wigan being without him for most of the season.

Robinson's own future has yet to be resolved. He is scheduled to join the Australian Rugby League (ARL) in June. There is even more pressure now on Wigan to try to keep him, but whether the ARL would want to let go of such a prize acquisition must be doubtful.

Meanwhile, until Wigan's and London Broncos' definition of a nominal payment for Shaun Edwards can be agreed upon, Edwards cannot move south, although Wigan, who reportedly want £150,000 for him, have approved his release.

Edwards became a father this week and is now based in London with his girlfriend. "I don't want to see my son just once a week," Edwards said. "I'll be a Wiganer until the day I die, but I've given the club loyal service for 14 years and I hope they'll look on my move with compassion."

Ian Sanders, the Bath rugby union scrum half, features on Wigan's shortlist as a replacement for Edwards after impressing in the cross-code challenge matches last spring, although the main target remains Tony Smith, of Castleford, who is also wanted by Sheffield Eagles.

John Pendlebury, who left the Wigan coaching staff this week to take charge of Halifax Blue Sox, will be the returning prodigal at Thrum Hall tomorrow when Halifax meet Sheffield. Pendlebury, who, as a player, inspired Halifax's 1986 championship and whose dropped goal beat St Helens in the Challenge Cup final the year after, needs a winning start.

Apart from Salford and St Helens in the Challenge Cup semi-final at Wigan today, the last four sides in the new Plate competition also have ambitions to reach Wembley on May 3.

Widnes, seven-times winners of the Challenge Cup, have home advantage in their semi-final against Hunslet, who last appeared at Wembley in 1965. The match is a restricted 2,500 sell-out because of ground redevelopment.

Hull Kingston Rovers are in administration, but, if they were to win at Leigh and reach Wembley, where they won the Challenge Cup twice in the Eighties, it would represent an enormous boost.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE [illegible]

GOLF

Olazabal's magic puts Westwood's round in shadows

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

IT WAS just one shot, but it was worth the long *journey* from England to the Canary Islands all on its *own*. It was the shot of a master, the sort of shot that would send a lesser *mortal* to heaven with a *contented* smile on his face if he was struck dead on the spot having played it.

Forget booming drives and raking long-iron shots: this was a stroke that sent the ball *no more* than 30 yards. It was as close to perfection as it is possible to get.

It was the sort of shot of which Severiano Ballesteros, the ultimate manipulator of a golf ball, would have been proud. The man who played it was José María Olazábal: the shot deserved a bigger audience than the one it got.

It happened on the 18th green here at Maspalomas yesterday, in the second round of the Turespaña Masters. Olazábal was eight under par on the tee, but looked to have lost his chance of getting closer to Lee Westwood, the leader, when he pushed his two-iron second shot a long way to the right of the green.

He had a bare, scrubby lie, about the worst sort of terrain from which to play the delicate stroke that was demanded of him — a shot that demanded courage, *imagination* and, *above* all, the *expressive hands* of a concert pianist. There seemed no way that Olazábal could get the ball near the hole.

No such negative thoughts assailed the player. He had a look, pulled out a wedge, stepped up to the ball and swung. The ball left the clubhead low and fast, but it was an express train that suddenly found brakes as it checked on its second bounce and sighed gently to a halt five feet from the pin.

SECOND ROUND

EARLY SCORES (*GB and Ire unless stated*): 135: L Westwood 72, 63. 137: J M Olazábal (Sp) 70, 67. 138: M Hallberg (Swe) 67, 71; N Briggs 68, 70. 139: J C Piñero (Sp) 70, 69; J Haeggman (Swe) 70, 69; D Gilford 70, 69. 140: E Romero (Arg) 70, 70; D Edlund (Swe) 72, 68; P Sjoland (Swe) 70, 70; A Hunter 67, 73; S Henderson 69, 71; K Tomori (Japan) 68, 72; S Allan (Aus) 70, 70. 141: I Garrido (Sp) 70, 71; P Mitchell 68, 73, M Florioli (Italy) 72, 69; P Broadhurst 69, 72. 142: C Suneson (Sp) 72, 70, D Borrego (Sp) 70, 72; F Cea (Sp) 71, 71, R Coles 73, 69; R Drummond 72, 70, M Davis 69, 73; J Payne 70, 72; A Coltart 71, 71.

The gallery sensed that they had just witnessed the shot of a sporting genius. Somebody yelled "*El Monstruo*", literally "The Monster" but, in the Spanish vernacular, a sign that the yeller has a high opinion of the yellee. Olazábal smiled; and three minutes later he smiled again when he holed the putt for a birdie four to close within two shots of Westwood.

It was the 67th shot that Olazábal had played and, although in strict scoring terms it was handsomely eclipsed by the 63 with which Westwood had earlier broken the course record by three shots, it was another happy episode in Olazábal's remarkable comeback after 18 months of pain and anguish with his injured feet.

It left Olazábal on nine under par. Had it not been for Westwood's pyrotechnics, it would have put him in the lead going into the weekend. It might have frightened a lesser man, but Westwood, 23, is not easily fazed.

Starting at the 10th, he had six birdies and two eagles, the first at the 11th, where he chipped in from 35 feet, and the second at the 9th, his last, where he holed a full wedge shot from 138 yards.

Westwood later criticised the demands of Ballesteros, who missed his fifth successive cut here, for wanting four picks for the Ryder Cup team. "It means that Seve has no confidence in the guys who finish ninth and tenth in the cup list," he said. "He will not be getting my vote. Nick Faldo has complained that there are no young players coming through, yet here's Seve trying to keep the old ones in."

They are no respecters of their elders, these young Turks. It was ever thus.

SCOTT TROYANOS

Davies leaves a cloud of dust after blasting the ball off a Moon Valley fairway

Woods too popular for his own security

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

TIGER WOODS was accompanied by a 14-strong security force when he began his rain-delayed second round in the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando yesterday. It *comprised* four plain-clothed police officers and ten hand-picked marshals to counter the enormous interest generated by the 21-year-old Californian.

Woods is by far the biggest attraction in world golf after winning three successive US amateur championships and three titles in 12 events since turning professional last August, and the plan was implemented following a directive from Tour officials.

They have issued a 12-point security schedule with attendances rising by between 20 and 50 per cent whenever Woods competes and it also suggests that he must be guarded by four officers from the moment he arrives the course until he leaves.

Ric Clarson, the tour's vice-president for business affairs, said: "Tiger has caused the need for a concentration on security. Everyone recognises the need for a new plan because he has very much outgrown that applied to other big-name players."

Woods and his entourage spent two hours in the locker-room, with overnight storms delaying the start, and he was trapped by a huge following when he eventually got onto the course. They were rewarded with an exhibition of his tremendous length from the tee with Woods birdieing the par-five 4th and 6th holes to move into a share of the lead at six under par.

Bernhard Langer, who opened with a 69, made his customary solid start with three straight pars before collecting his first birdie at the fourth to get within two shots of Woods, while Ian Woosnam set out determined to beat the Bay Hill course. The Welshman had a first-round 70.

Nick Faldo (71) was hopeful of getting round before dark but it seemed likely that Colin Montgomerie (73) and Sandy Lyle (75) would be forced to return today to complete 36 holes.

Hall rounds off fine comeback

JULIE HALL completed a triumphant return to competitive golf after nine months yesterday, partnering Helen Wadsworth, the Welsh professional with whom she won the women's world four-ball title ten years ago, to victory in the Sunningdale Foursomes.

Hall, the former British and English amateur champion and now the secretary of the Ladies' Golf Union, finished off a remarkable comeback by holing three successive putts to give her and Wadsworth a 4 and 3 win in the final over Jeremy Robinson and David Jones.

It was her first tournament since the Curtis Cup victory over the United States last June, and will probably be her last until she helps to defend the trophy next March. "I can't wipe the smile off my face," Hall, now officially retired from the amateur circuit, said.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: J Robinson (The Vale) and D Jones (Three Rivers) bt G Smith (Camberley Heath) and W Riley (Aus) 1 hole, J Hall (Ladybank) and H Wadsworth (WPGET) bt J Kemp and M Wilcox (John O'Gaunt) 6 and 5. *Final*: Hall and Wadsworth bt Robinson and Jones 4 and 3

Davies moving through

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

LAURA DAVIES, renowned for her relaxed approach to life and golf, admitted to being "in a bit of a frenzy" by the time she hit her opening drive in defence of her Standard Register Ping title at Moon Valley on Thursday. She was unusually nervous to begin with, then the announcer gave her a world title bout build-up and her ball fell off the tee as she was about to start her backswing. She re-teed, hit a wild boomerang hook and dropped a shot.

Davies, the world No 1, eventually recovered her equilibrium to post a satisfactory score of 70, three under par, five strokes behind Barb Mucha, the leader; and after 13 holes of her second round she had moved to seven under, just two behind Kelly Robbins and Karen Weiss.

Five under par after a birdie at the 16th, her seventh hole, Davies dropped shots at the 17th and 18th and strode to the first tee in a way that signalled: "Stand clear". What followed was four consecutive birdies — a classic case of anger being good for you.

If Davies wins the tournament for the fourth year in a row, she will not only notch up her fiftieth victory worldwide, but will be linked with Walter Hagen — a soulmate who liked to enjoy life to the full — and Gene Sarazen, the only players to win the same event four times on the USPGA Tour. No wonder Davies was unusually jittery.

However, she was nowhere near as out of sorts as Annika Sorenstam, the US Open champion, who was lacking her usual metronomic precision. In the second round, she was out in 40, three over par (she started at the 10th), to be one over and struggling. In the first round, she was in six bunkers and her clubbing was out of sync. "I'm normally very precise," Sorenstam said, "but my yardages were really off."

FIRST ROUND

United States unless stated

65: B Mucha. 66: D Coe-Jones (Can). 67: K Robbins. 68: M McNamara, H Dobson (GB), M Redman, K Weiss. 69: K Tschetter, J Stephenson (Aus), A Benz, L Brower, J McGill, M Lunn (Aus). 70: R Walton, L Davies (GB), E Daniel, L Hackney (GB), C Figg-Currier, L Hackney. Other scores: 71: A Nicholas (GB), K Webb (Aus), A Sorenstam (Swe). 72: J Morley (GB). 73: C Pierce (GB), P Johnson (GB), S Croce (It), H Alfredsson (Swe). 74: P Wright (GB), C Nilsmark (Swe), K Marshall (GB). 75: L Neumann (Swe). 76: C Sorenstam (Swe), C Matthew (GB).

Perhaps she is feeling the effects of a festering feud with Charlotta, her younger sister. Relations between them are strained, and, after the first round, Charlotta strode straight past Annika without a glance, let alone an inquiry as to how she had done.

Yesterday Tom and Gunilla Sorenstam, the parents, were walking with Annika while keeping an anxious, if distant, eye on Charlotta, who is in her rookie season in the United States and was playing in the group behind. Perhaps they had been banned from watching, but it would seem that a no-holds-barred family summit would be in order, to thrash the matter out.

Charlotta, who started with a round of 76, was having a better day, going out in 35, two under par. Striding out ahead of her playing partners, who included Karrie Webb, the rookie sensation of 1996, it was easy to see the same determination that has made her sister a champion.

Mystic appeal draws elite to the crease

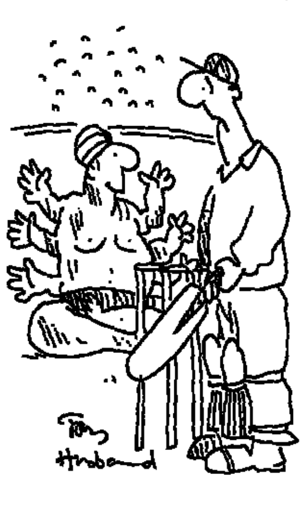
SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

THERE is a book, confusingly called *The Tao of Cricket*, which claims that cricket is in truth an Indian game that happened to have been invented in England. This column has long been sympathetic to this notion and now I can bring you conclusive proof.

India's best-known living mystic is Satya Sai Baba, a greatly revered figure who has many followers among the rich and powerful of the Western world. He will be 72 in November and there can be no better way to celebrate this cosmic event than a cricket match. There is no difficulty in bringing about so small a miracle as this: the Baba includes among his devotees such transcendentally gifted cricket adepts as Sunil Gavaskar, Gundappa Viswanath and Erapalli Prasanna. This triumvirate is finalising a list of players to be invited for a match between an Indian and a World XI.

The Baba was inspired to his pursuit of cricket by a visit from the World Cup-winning Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga. The match will be held at the Baba's vast "hermitage" at Puttaparti, near Bangalore. The Baba's trust can afford a pretty lavish celebration, not being short of the odd lakh or crore of rupees. And transport is a small problem to such a man: the hermitage has its own airfield.



Paying his ticket

Perhaps the truest test of character in sport is the ability to make horrendous cock-ups — and then to rise above them. This column applauds the achievement of the amateur rugby league club, Siddal, in rising above the most grievous of self-inflicted wounds. Siddal, a club from Halifax, were travelling to play a tie in the BNFL National Cup, the amateurs' Challenge Cup, at Hensingham, in Cumbria.

On the way, the coach stopped at Cockermouth for the stretching of legs. The lads then went on to the ground, where they discovered that one of their props, a giant by the name of Mallgranda, was not among them. He had slipped off for a pee and they had driven off without him. The bus went back for him and Mallgranda was in time to watch the second half. There he saw the coach, Andy Hancock, responsible for the head count on the bus, playing in his place. And Siddal managed to win 20-16.

Sharp operators

Remember the era of the catwalk football manager? The sharpest suit competition, the clunkiest jewellery, as managers such as John Bond and Ron Atkinson sought the honour of looking the most spiv-like. Thank the Lord, most managers prefer to wear tracksuits these days. But American college basketball is a sport still in thrall to the myth of the suit. The sport's defining image is 12 black giants standing around a small white man going berserk in a bad suit.

Managerial dressing for the camera is accepted as a prime aspect of the sport. Now an organisation called Jos. A Bank Clothier of Baltimore *has given awards for the best-dressed manager*, with Tubby Smith, of Georgia Tech, and Rick Pittino, of the University of Kentucky, *taking top honours. Bob Knight*, of Indiana University, and John Chaney, of Temple University, are *written off* as "fashionably challenged". Smith apparently won the *dress-off*: "He co-ordinates his colour well," his citation read. "His suits fit and they fit his personality."

Worries at home

It is hard to be a sports star. Ronaldo, the brilliant Brazil forward playing for Barcelona, is negotiating with his club for a still more lucrative contract, said to be worth around £2 million a year. Meanwhile, he learns that his father, Nelio Nazario Lima, has been in trouble for drugs again. He was arrested in possession of heroin, but went unpunished because the drug was for "personal use". "I've been into drugs for five years," he said. "But I have stopped so as not to tarnish the image of Ronaldo, whom I love so much." This was contradicted by one of Ronaldo's understrappers, Alexander Maryins. "We are organising medical treatment for him. Ronaldo is worried. We shall help him." Fame is a hard business for all involved.

Headline makers

The pun is a dangerous thing; you ask James Joyce. A pun can fall horribly flat, become incomprehensibly elliptic, can blow up in your face. However, the moments when a good pun hits the target are wonderfully sweet. The unsung heroes of journalism are the people who write the *headlines. It is* to celebrate their outbreaks of inventiveness that Oddball Publishing, publisher of the indispensable *BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Yearbook*, has come up with The Oddball Sports Headline Award.

The idea came from a conversation with Pete Nicholls, of Oddball, myself and another journo, Simon O'Hagan, in which we bandied such legendary headlines as "Super Cali fabulistic Airdrie are atrocious" and "Queen in brawl at Palace". Here are the best headlines of 1996, by the judges' decision, runners-up first. *The Observer* reported an under-19 cricket match under "Hollioakes from little acorns grow". *The Sun* captioned a picture of the Formula One driver, Pedro Diniz, horrifyingly engulfed in flames, an accident from which he walked away: "Diniz in the oven." However, the winner was *The Sunday Telegraph*, an establishment that has clearly not forgotten the Sixties. Beneath its story of a Brazilian footballer going Awol while linked with another club: "Emerson late and Parma?"

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 105 Leicester 97.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Los Angeles Lakers 89 Cleveland 76; Orlando 100 Golden State 95; Houston 96 Washington 90; Portland 97 Milwaukee 78; Phoenix 113 San Antonio 106; Seattle 123 Denver 97.

BILLIARDS

MADRAS: Gold Flake championship: Second round: R Foldvari (Aus) bt S Amarnath (India) 4-3; A Kumar (India) bt R Chapman (Eng) 4-3; M Russell (Eng) bt D Joshi (India) 4-1; C Shutt (Eng) bt P Gilchrist (Eng) 4-2; G Sethi (India) bt M Ferreira (India) 4-0; S Multani (India) bt D Causier (Eng) 4-2. Quarter-finals: N Patel (India) bt Russell 4-3; Kumar bt Foldvari 4-2; M Kothari (India) bt Shutt 4-0; Sethi bt Multani 4-0

BOWLS

PERTH: Women's home international indoor championships: England bt Scotland 127-108 (England skips first): N Shaw bt A Christie 24-15; M Steele lost to E Wren 18-21; J Roylance lost to J Sykes 18-25; B Alderson bt J Conlan 22-12; M Price lost E McGarvie 15-21; D Hanlon bt R Hutchison 30-14. Final positions: 1, England 6pts; 2, Scotland 4; 3, Wales 2; 4, Ireland 0

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Final (first day of four): Perth: Queensland 265-4 (M P Mott 86, S G Law 70, T J Barsby 87) v Western Australia.

RED STRIPE CUP (final day of four): Berbice: Guyana 281 (C L Hooper 119, C Lambert 55; I R Bishop 5-82). Trinidad and Tobago 36-0. St Catherine, Jamaica: Jamaica 156 (C E L Ambrose 4-16): Leeward Islands 39-4 (F A Rose 3-25).

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: AEK Athens 0 Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Paris Saint-Germain win 3-0 on aggregate); AIK Solna 1 Barcelona 1 (Barcelona win 4-2 on aggregate); Fiorentina 0 Benfica 1 (Fiorentina win 2-1 on aggregate). Liverpool 3 SK Brann 0 (Liverpool win 4-1 on aggregate).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury 4 Baldock 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Watford 1 Charlton 1.

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 2 Sheffield United 0.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 1 Knowle 2.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield under-15 international: Scotland 2 Wales 1 (at Inverness). FA Premier League Trophy: Under-19 Semi-final: Hampshire 2, Norfolk 1. Under-16: Semi-final: Oxfordshire 2 Devon 1 (aet). English Snickers under-19 Trophy: Quarter-final: St Cuthberts High School, Northumberland 2, Wyke College, Humberside 0. English girls' under-16 Vimto Trophy: Semi-final: Seaton Burn, Northumberland 0, Montgomery High School, Lancashire 4.

GOLF

ORLANDO, Florida: Bay Hill invitational tournament: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 67: P Stankowski. 68: B Andrade, S Jones, T Woods, F Funk. 69: O Uresti, J D Blake, C Perry, S Pate, P Stewart, P Goydos, T Kite, V Singh (Fiji), B Langer (Ger). 70: L Mattiace, N Ozaki (Japan), E Tryba, L Roberts, C Beck, N Price (Zim), T Lehman, E Els (SA), S Gump, S Cink, J Maggert, S Simpson, G Kraft, B Henninger, T Herron, G Boros, Y Kaneko (Japan), I Woosnam (GB), S Kendall, R Damron. Other score: 71: N Faldo (GB)

ROYAL ST GEORGE'S, Sandwich: University match: Oxford lead Cambridge 3½-1½ (Oxford names first): J Saunders and D McDowell bt O Malik and N Patel 6 and 5, J Hayley and B Payne halved with T McGill and W Rusted, M Undelow and B Keogh bt J Fletcher and J Firth 4 and 3; M Stradling and L Bradley-Jones lost to P Guest and C Russell 6 and 5; M Hall and E Hawkes bt J Buck and D Curtis 6 and 5.

HOCKEY

PORTSMOUTH: Inter-Services tournament: Men: RAF 3 Army 1. Women: Royal Navy 2 RAF 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 2 Florida 2 (OT); Pittsburgh 6 Toronto 3. Phoenix 4 Chicago 2; St Louis 4 Hartford 1 San Jose 2 Vancouver 1.

ICE SKATING

LAUSANNE: World championships: Men: Final positions: 1, E Stojko (Can) 3.0; 2, T Eldredge (US) 3.0 factored placements; 3, A Yagudin (Russ) 5.5; 4, V Zagorodniuk (Ukr) 7.0; 5, I Kulik (Russ) 7.5. 6, A Vlascenko (Ger) 10.0; 11, S Cousins (GB) 19.5. Free programme: 1, Stojko 1.0; 2, Eldredge 2.0; 3, Yagudin 3.0; 4, Zagorodniuk 4.0; 5, Vlascenko 5.0; 6, Kulik 6.0; 11, Cousins (GB) 11.0. Women (after short programme): 1, T Lipinski (US) 0.5; 2, V Gusmeroli (Fr) 1.0; 3, M Butyrskaya (Russ) 1.5; 4, M Kwan (US) 2.0; 5, K Czako (Hun) 2.5; 6, I Slutskaya (Russ) 3.0. Ice dance (after original and compulsory programmes): 1, O Gritschuk and Y Platov (Russ) 1.0; 2, A Krylova and O Ovsiannikov (Russ) 2.0; 3, S-L Bourne and V Kraatz (Can) 2.8; 4, S Moniotte and P Lavanchy (Fr) 4.2; 5, M Anissina and G Peizerat (Fr) 4.8; 6, E Punsalan and J Swallow (US) 6.0; 16, M Humphreys and P Askew (GB) 16.0.

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Manly-Warringah 12 North Sydney 8. AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Auckland Warriors 12 Adelaide Rams 16

RUGBY UNION

HONG KONG: World Cup Sevens: First round: Pool A: England 33 Canada 12. Zimbabwe 42 Canada 7. England 26 Zimbabwe 7. Pool B: Australia 19 Scotland 19. Scotland 26 Romania 14. Australia 38 Romania 7. Pool C: New Zealand 47 Japan 14. Tonga 35 Japan 7. New Zealand 21 Tonga 7. Pool D: Fiji 59 Portugal 0. Hong Kong 33 Portugal 12. Fiji 45 Hong Kong 0. Pool E: France 35 United States 5. United States 33 Korea 7. France 38 Korea 5. Pool F: Spain 26 Morocco 5. Cook Islands 31 Morocco 17; Spain 31 Cook Islands 12. Pool G: South Africa 45 Argentina 7. Argentina 31 Ireland 22. South Africa 38 Ireland 5. Pool H: Western Samoa 48 Namibia 5, Wales 12 Namibia 12. Western Samoa 26 Wales 24. Second-round draw: Pool A: Fiji, Wales, Namibia. Pool B: South Africa, Hong Kong, Ireland. Pool C: Western Samoa, Argentina, Morocco. Pool D: France, United States, Romania. Pool E: New Zealand, Tonga, Japan. Pool F: England, Cook Islands, Canada. Pool G: Spain, Zimbabwe, Korea. Pool H: Australia, Scotland, Portugal

☐ Pool winners qualify for quarter-finals

SAILING

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Latest positions (Sydney to Cape Town, with miles to Cape Town as at 13.54 GMT yesterday): 1, Group 4 3,278. 2, Concert 3,284. 3, Global Teamwork 3,293. 4, Save The Children 3,299. 5, Toshiba Wave Warrior 3,330. 6, Commercial Union 3,330. 7, Motorola 3,350. 8, Ocean Rover 3,401. 9, Time & Tide 3,426. 10, 3Com 3,430. 11, Pause To Remember 3,458. 12, Courtaulds International 3,464. 13, Nuclear Electric 3,468. 14, Heath Insured II 3,485

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co Kildare: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: Quarter-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt J White (Eng) 6-5. P Ebdon (Eng) bt S Davis (Eng) 6-1

SQUASH

ANTWERP: Women's Tournament: Quarter-finals: M Martin (Aus) bt N Grainger (SA) 9-1, 9-6, 9-6. C Nitch (SA) bt M Bell (Aus) 9-1, 9-1, 9-4. R Macree (Eng) bt E Irving (Aus) 4-9, 9-6, 9-1, 6-9, 9-6. J Tranfield (Eng) bt R Grinham (Aus) 9-10, 9-4, 9-2, 9-4

TENNIS

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida: Lipton championships: Men: First round: B Black (Zim) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-2, 6-3. J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt J Grabb (US) 6-3, 6-2. M Tillstrom (Swe) bt L Roux (Fr) 7-6, 6-1. N Kiefer (Ger) bt D van Scheppingen (Holl) 6-2, 5-7, 7-6. F DeWulf (Bel) bt A Hernandez (Mex) 7-6, 6-1. M Damm (Ger) bt C Costa (Sp) 6-1, 5-7, 6-4. A Medvedev (Ukr) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6-4, 6-4. V Spadea (US) bt J Frana (Arg) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. M Merklein (US) bt N Godwin (SA) 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. H Dreekmann (Ger) bt M Filippini (Uru) 6-4, 6-4. J Novak (Cz) bt J A Viloca (Sp) 6-0, 6-3. F Meligeni (Br) bt M Goellner (Ger) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; A Voinea (Rom) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 5-7, 7-5, 6-6 ret. H Gumy (Arg) bt P Rafter (Aus) 6-4, 6-4. M Charpentier (Arg) bt J Gimelstob (US) 7-6, 3-6, 6-4. G Kuerten (Br) bt M Joyce (US) 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. Women: First round: N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt S Farina (It) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2. Wang Shi-Ting (Taiwan) bt R Zrubakova (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-4. A Ellwood (Aus) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 6-2, 6-1; F Perfetti (It) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-0, 4-6, 6-3. R Hiraki (Japan) bt M Endo (Japan) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. P Hy-Boulais (Can) bt N Dechy (Fr) 6-2, 6-4. P Begerow (Ger) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 7-6, 7-6. M Grzybowska (Pol) bt C Moraru (US) 6-1, 7-6. A-G Sidot (Fr) bt P Suarez (Arg) 6-1, 6-4. A Kournikova (Russ) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 6-2, 6-0. M L Serna (Sp) bt C Brandi (USA) 6-3, 6-3; A Fusai (Fr) bt M Maruska (Austria) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3. E Wagner (Ger) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 2-6, 6-4, 6-3. B Rittner (Ger) bt S De Ville (Bel) 6-3, 6-1; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt H Sukova (Cz) 6-3, 6-4. L Neiland (Lat) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-3, 7-5. P Schnyder (Switz) bt A Gersi (Cz) 6-1, 6-3. T Panova (Russ) bt D Randriantefy (Madagascar) 7-6, 6-3; T Tanasugarn (Thai) bt G Pizzichini (It) 6-4, 6-4. N Zvereva (Bela) bt P Langrova (Cz) 6-4, 6-0. N Kijimuta (Japan) bt E Makarova (Russ) 7-5, 6-1. M Tu (US) bt A Miller (US) 7-5, 6-1; I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt B Rippner (US) 6-4, 7-6. J Watanabe (US) bt A Montolio (Sp) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2. M Saeki (Japan) bt R Grande (It) 0-6, 6-1, 6-3. F Labat (Arg) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-2, 6-3. E Callens (Bel) bt M Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-1, 6-3. L Lee (US) bt C Cristea (Rom) 6-3, 6-4. L McNeil (US) bt M Oremans (Holl) 6-4, 6-4

ST PETERSBURG: Men's tournament: Second round: K Carlsen (Den) bt N Marques (Por) 6-4, 6-4. O Delaître (Fr) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 7-6. T Johansson (Swe) bt S Simian (Fr) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. M Stich (Ger) bt O Camporese (It) 6-4, 6-4

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EQUESTRIANISM

World leaders will be on show at Gatcombe

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

BLYTH TAIT, of New Zealand, the winner of the individual gold medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year, and Mark Todd, his compatriot, the Olympic champion in 1984 and 1988, head a formidable field for the Gatcombe Horse Trials in Gloucestershire, sponsored by Land-Rover, which take place this weekend.

The trials, which are of novice and intermediate standard, were started by the Princess Royal five years ago and have been quick to establish themselves on the circuit. William Fox-Pitt, who leads *the home entry on* Cosmopolitan, his Olympic horse, the winner at Aldon last weekend, is an *enthusiastic supporter*. "The going is usually good, the course is up to height, and there are plenty of challenging questions," he said.

Other leading British riders competing include Mary King, who is attempting a *third* successive win this season with King William, her former *top* horse, and also rides King Solomon, *her* 1996 Blenheim winner; Lucinda Murray, with Lovell Lass, her Badminton entry; and Ian Stark, a member of the Great Britain Olympic team, who rides Sir Marcus and The Moose.

Fox-Pitt will also be competing against Wiggy, his wife, *who is deputising* for her husband on Loch Alan in order to help to prepare him for the Saumur Three-Day Event, in France in May.

Tait and Todd, who finished first and second in the world three-day event rankings last season, have two rides each in the intermediate sections. Tait competes with Chesterfield and Aspyring, his Badminton ride, on which he was fourth at the Boekelo event in Holland last October.

Todd is approaching this weekend with some caution. His first ride is a new horse, Stunning, the New Zealand thoroughbred from which he had a fall at the water at the Puhinui three-day event in New Zealand in December — *their first event together*. He is also riding Kayem, *the horse that he had to withdraw from the Games in Atlanta at the* last minute because of a shoulder injury.

Gatcombe takes on an added significance this year. Tomorrow marks the launch of National Riding Week, of which the Princess Royal is *president. The aim of the week is to encourage more people to ride — and to dispel the myth* that riding is elitist.

More than 3,000 events have been organised, including, on Friday, "Take a Friend Riding Day", when riding schools nationwide are offering lessons free or at reduced prices. Gatcombe will play its part by offering pony rides tomorrow afternoon.

3 EXPLOSIVE GAMES AT TWICKENHAM!

WILLIS CORROON INTER SERVICE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

ROYAL NAVY v ARMY
Saturday 12 April 1997. Kick-off 3pm
12.30pm U-21 match
England Students v Combined Services

ARMY v ROYAL AIR FORCE
Wednesday 16 April 1997. Kick-off 3pm
12.30pm match
Portsmouth Grammar School v King's School, Bruton

ROYAL AIR FORCE v ROYAL NAVY
Wednesday 23 April 1997. Kick-off 3pm
12.30pm match
Sussex v Hampshire Schools "U-12s"

Adults £10 (Juniors half-price) Family £20 (2 adults & 2 children) School Parties £1 per person

Tickets from Credit Card Hotline 01705 865575 or at the gate

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

The match on Monday is vital for both Arsenal and Liverpool, and could well end in a draw — but both teams badly need a win to retain any chance of the title. Ian Wright's return will give added firepower to an Arsenal attack that has been doing surprisingly well without him and Paul Merson, thanks largely to the all-round excellence of Dennis Bergkamp. But can the heavy men in the Arsenal defence cope with the darting raids of Robbie Fowler or the incursions of Steve McManaman? **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Villa's pursuit of a place in the Uefa Cup next season is being hampered by a dismal away record that shows few signs of improving. They have not won on their travels since early December, when they beat Southampton 1-0 at The Dell. "We've let ourselves down," Andy Townsend, the Villa captain, said. "It's just got to get better." This afternoon, Villa visit Blackburn Rovers, who have put together a nine-match unbeaten run in the league at Ewood Park since November. **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

The time of year when clubs become distinctly twitchy about their players travelling on international duty has arrived again. Colin Hendry has been playing for a few weeks with a groin injury and Blackburn are reluctant to let such a significant player risk further aggravation while playing for his country. Tony Parkes, the caretaker-manager, said: "We are prepared to play him if he is not 100 per cent fit, [but] we are unsure if he should do that at international level." **DM**

CHELSEA

Can Middlesbrough's defence cope with Zola? Chelsea's recent form has been typically erratic: slayers of Sunderland, staccato against Southampton, when Grodas, in goal, was inspired. Ruud Gullit, the manager, admits that even with Frank Leboeuf, who has been missing lately, Chelsea can be troubled by high balls, but against Southampton their defence did not look too happy on the ground either. Juninho will be the main problem if Ravanelli does not play. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Most matches at this stage of the season range from important and pivotal to vital and crucial. Coventry's game against West Ham today transcends such clichés and is, without doubt, the mother of all six-pointers. Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, will be calling on his troops to show their battling, fighting qualities — similar, perhaps, to those displayed by the father of one of his players, who recently had an altercation with a member of the Fourth Estate. **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

It is just as well that Dean Sturridge returns from suspension to face Tottenham this afternoon. Derby have struggled up front of late, but after being rebuffed by Tommy Johnson, Jim Smith, the manager, believes he will be unable to bring in reinforcements before the deadline unless a work permit for Paulo Wanchope, the Costa Rica striker, arrives next week. "I thought we would have the strikers to get the necessary goals this season but that has not been the case," Smith said. **RH**

EVERTON

Everton's recent form — only two Premiership wins in 13 outings — is a mystery to Joe Royle, the manager, but not half as bizarre as the latest inquiry for Paul *Rideout, his much-travelled striker.* Rideout, 32, has stirred the interest of the all-conquering Chinese club, Huan Dao Vanguards. Royle says the deal is a "possibility" but, apparently, will only entertain it if, in return, Vanguards part with their prolific and highly-rated forward, Huan Elluva Gol. **RK**

LEEDS UNITED

George Graham continues to reconstruct Leeds in his inimitably solid, successful and utterly soporific style. However, the rebellion appears to have already *started — Carlton Palmer,* with his transfer talk, and Tony Yeboah, with his shirt-throwing, providing welcome sources of entertainment. Yeboah has mysteriously declared himself unfit for the game against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough today. Apparently, he has a severe dose of hategeorgeitis. **RK**

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester opened their account for the season when they beat Southampton in August, with Emile Heskey scoring what Martin O'Neill, the manager, described as a "wonder goal". If Leicester's continuing presence away from the relegation area has surprised pundits, then the development of Heskey certainly has not. "He could play anywhere on the field and in many cases probably better than the players there already," O'Neill said. Poole continues to deputise for Keller in goal. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

You have to hand it to Robbie Fowler: he certainly knows how to make an impact. His T-shirt stunt caused a few waves after the European victory on Thursday, but perhaps more enduring will be the impression left by his two goals. Surely the young Liverpool forward will now get the opportunity for his country that his form has demanded. He is, he says, ready: "In the past I may have appeared a little immature, but I can assure the manager that is not the case now." **DM**

MANCHESTER UNITED

United's stroll in Oporto, perhaps more for the players than the fans, will have revived the club's aspirations of greatness. The European Cup, the *crème de la crème,* beckons. So it is perhaps appropriate that Manchester has been chosen for the site of the International Football Hall of Fame, which will feature the sport's leading players through the ages. Voting is already underway for the "Hall of Famers", with the early frontrunners being Beckham, Cantona, Schmeichel, Giggs . . . **RK**

MIDDLESBROUGH

With Fabrizio Ravanelli having flown to Italy for treatment on a tweaked hamstring yesterday, Middlesbrough lack their leading scorer for the meeting today with Chelsea. The likely duel between Festa and Mark Hughes promises to be a spicy subplot. Bryan Robson, the manager, attempted to sign Ruud Gullit, now the manager of Chelsea, in 1995 but Gullit declared that he "had never heard of Middlesbrough". Teesside hopes that he will have bad memories of the place by tonight.

NEWCASTLE UNITED

Sir John Hall had had the smile wiped off his face even before the miserable events of Tuesday evening. After a convivial lunch with Prince Rainier before the Uefa Cup tie against Monaco, he was confronted by a French journalist. "What," he was asked, "can you say about Newcastle's attempt to sign Sammer?" Judging by the thunderous look on his face, there was something in it — and Sir John's explanation that Newcastle are looking for players of such quality betrayed much. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

The next two games could decide the fate of a club once again ensconced in the bottom three. Forest visit Sunderland this afternoon and Middlesbrough on Monday, both opponents struggling against relegation themselves. Van Hooijdonk has added thrust to the attack, but for how long will Saunders remain alongside him? The Wales forward has scored just three times in the league this season, and Moore, signed from Tranmere, must be under consideration. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

After playing just two games all season, Lee Briscoe returns. His appearance is particularly timely, given that he has just begun contract talks to keep him with the club for a further four seasons. "It has been frustrating for me, but I'm hopeful that I will be able to establish myself in the side and that I will be able to sign a new deal to keep me here," he said. Collins and Humphreys will contest the shirt vacated by Atherton, the injured captain, and Pembridge returns after suspension. **DM**

SOUTHAMPTON

Despite being selected again for the England squad, Matthew Le Tissier is having trouble getting into the Southampton starting line-up. Graeme Souness, the manager, feels that a groin injury means that the player is not fit to play 90 minutes. Le Tissier, who came on after 52 minutes of the defeat at Chelsea, disagrees. Definitely missing from the team to play Leicester are Claus Lundekvam and Jason Dodd, who is out for a month with a recurrence of a cartilage problem. **NS**

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Manchester United	30	60	+26	WDWLW
2 Liverpool	30	57	+26	WDLWD
3 Arsenal	31	57	+25	LLWWW
4 Newcastle	29	51	+23	WWLLW
5 Chelsea	30	49	+8	LDLWW
6 Sheffield Wednesday	30	48	+4	WWWWL
7 Aston Villa	30	47	+8	WDWLD
8 Wimbledon	29	45	+5	DLDLD
9 Leeds	31	40	-8	WWWDL
10 Tottenham	30	39	-3	LLWWD
11 Leicester	30	38	-7	WWDLD
12 Blackburn	30	36	+2	WDDWL
13 Everton	30	36	-6	DLDLW
14 Derby	30	32	-14	DLWLL
15 Sunderland	31	32	-19	LLWLL
16 West Ham	30	30	-12	WLWDD
17 Coventry	31	30	-17	DLDDL
18 Nottingham Forest	31	29	-21	WLLDD
19 † Middlesbrough	29	28	-8	LLWWW
20 Southampton	30	26	-12	WDDLL

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

SUNDERLAND

Twenty years after cheering Sunderland on from the Fulwell End, Chris Waddle finally pulls on the red and white stripes today, making his debut against Nottingham Forest. Ironically, Waddle almost joined Forest from Bradford City two weeks ago. Peter Reid, the manager, trusts that his new recruit will lift his players, exorcising the memory of the 6-2 thrashing at Chelsea last week and, more importantly, hauling Sunderland clear of relegation danger.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham's recent mini-revival — a sequence of three matches unbeaten — has probably come too late to revive their hopes of European competition next season. Not surprisingly, it has done little, either, to alleviate the gloom of the Tottenham Action Group, a small yet vigorous and vociferous band of tortured souls. "If the team can draw 30,000 crowds in its present feeble situation," a spokesman said, "just imagine what a successful team, playing Spurs-style football, could do." **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

With the visit to Coventry City today being followed by matches against Middlesbrough and Southampton, West Ham's destiny will be shaped over the next three weeks. "It is a vital game at Highfield Road and we need to get something out of it," Harry Redknapp, the manager, said yesterday. They do, too — fixture rescheduling means that the last three games of their campaign will be against Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Manchester United. **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Although Brian McAllister joins Neil Sullivan in the Scotland squad, there are still no England places for Robbie Earle and Chris Perry. Vinnie Jones, captain, actor and chatshow host, who said this week that he would also like to be a player-manager, may play in Europe whatever happens to Wimbledon. Out of contract at the end of the season, he could go abroad for nothing under the Bosman ruling. Negotiations with Sam Hamman, the club's owner, are under way. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

BLACKBURN ROVERS v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 1-1, —, —, —, —, 3-0, 1-0, 3-1, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, G Le Saux, C Hendry, H Berg, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, W McKinlay, J Wilcox, P Pedersen, K Gallacher, C Sutton, N Marker, G Donis, P Warhurst, S Given, D Duff, L Bohinen, G Fenton.

ASTON VILLA (from): M Bosnich, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, S Staunton, D Hughes, R Scimeca, I Taylor, A Townsend, M Draper, D Yorke, J Joachim, T Johnson, C Hendrie, N Davis, S Murray, M Oakes.

COVENTRY CITY v WEST HAM UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-3, 0-0, 1-1, —, —, 1-0, —, 1-1, 2-0, 2-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, R Shaw, G Breen, D Dublin, A Evtushok, M Hall, P Williams, P Telfer, N Whelan, E Jess, K Richardson, G McAllister, D Huckerby, P Ndlovu, W Boland, D Burrows, J Filan.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, J Dicks, S Potts, I Bishop, M Rieper, P Kitson, J Hartson, K Rowland, H Porfirio, I Dowie, J Moncur, S Lazaridis, L Sealey, R Ferdinand, S Bilic, M Omonimyni, S Mean.

DERBY COUNTY v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, 1-2, 1-1, 2-1, 0-1, —, —, —, —, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): M Taylor, J Laursen, P McGrath, G Rowett, L Carsley, R van der Laan, C Dailly, D Powell, C Powell, P Trollope, A Asanovic, A Ward, D Sturridge, I Stimac, M Carbon, P Simpson, S Flynn, R Hoult.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, S Campbell, C Calderwood, C Wilson, D Howells, D Anderton, E Sheringham, A Sinton, R Rosenthal, S Carr, J Dozzell, S Nethercott, E Beardsen, A Nielsen, R Allen, J Scales, D Austin, S Iversen.

EVERTON v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 2-1, 1-1, 3-2, 0-1, 0-0, 0-2, 0-1, 1-0, 2-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, A Hinchcliffe, D Unsworth, T Phelan, D Watson, C Short, J Parkinson, D Ferguson, G Speed, G Stuart, M Branch, P Rideout, M Hottiger, J Speare, C Thomsen, N Barmby.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Neville, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin, D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, O G Solskjaer, A Cole, P Neville, K Poborsky, J Cruyff, B McClair, P Scholes, R van der Gouw.

MIDDLESBROUGH v CHELSEA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, —, 0-0, —, —, 2-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, G Festa, C Blackmore, P Stamp, Emerson, C Hignett, Juninho, M Beck, C Fleming, A Moore, B Roberts, D Whyte, S Vickers, A Ormerod, M Summerbell.

CHELSEA (from): F Grodas, D Petrescu, F Sinclair, S Clarke, E Johnsen, S Minto, C Burley, R Di Matteo, D Wise, M Hughes, G Zola, P Hughes, A Myers, N Colgan, J Morris, G Vialli, P Parker.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available.

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, —, 1-6, 1-1, 3-3, 1-1, 6-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, I Nolan, L Briscoe, S Nicol, D Walker, D Stefanovic, M Pembridge, R Humphreys, G Whittingham, B Carbone, R Blinker, D Hirst, A Booth, W Collins, M Williams, S Oakes, O Donaldson, M Clarke.

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, L Radebe, D Wetherall, L Sharpe, I Rush, B Deane, L Bowyer, G Halle, I Harte, R Molenaar, G Kelly, A Dorigo, M Beeney, M Ford, M Jackson, R Wallace, A Gray, A Couzens.

SOUTHAMPTON v LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-0, —, —, —, —, —, —, —, 2-2, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, S Charlton, R Dryden, U van Gobbel, J Magilton, E Berkovic, R Slater, M Oakley, M Evans, M Le Tissier, E Ostenstad, A Neilson, F Benali, N Maddison, S Basham, D Beasant.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Poole, S Grayson, J Lawrence, J Watts, S Walsh, S Prior, M Elliott, M Whitlow, P Kaamark, S Guppy, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Taylor, S Campbell, S Wilson, S Claridge, M Robins, E Heskey, I Marshall, I Andrews.

SUNDERLAND v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 1-0, —, —, 2-3, —, —

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, G Hall, D Kubicki, R Ord, L Howey, D Kelly, K Ball, P Bracewell, M Gray, C Waddle, P Stewart, M Bridges, A Rae, J Mullin, C Russell, D Preece, D Williams.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, A I Haaland, I Woan, S Gemmill, D Saunders, P van Hooijdonk, I Moore, B O'Neil, B Roy, J Lee, S Guinan, S Blatherwick, A Fettis.

TOMORROW

WIMBLEDON v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-1, 0-0, 4-0, —, —, —, —, 4-2, 3-2, 3-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, D Blackwell, C Perry, B McAllister, A Reeves, D Jupp, N Ardley, R Earle, P Fear, S Castledine, M Harford, O Leonardsen, E Ekoku, D Holdsworth, M Gayle, J Euell.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Hislop, P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, P Beardsley, F Asprilla, R Elliott, D Ginola, K Gillespie, S Watson, L Clark, P Albert, J Crawford.

MONDAY

ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, 1-2, 1-1, 1-1, 3-0, 4-0, 0-1, 1-0, 0-1, 0-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, L Dixon, A Adams, P Vieira, M Keown, S Bould, N Winterburn, R Parlour, D Platt, D Bergkamp, I Wright, M Rose, R Garde, S Marshall, S Morrow, J Lukic, L Harper, P Shaw, S Hughes, N Anelka.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, D Matteo, R Jones, S I Bjornebye, J McAteer, M Wright, N Ruddock, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas, J Redknapp, S Collymore, R Fowler, S Harkness, M Kennedy, A Warner, L Jones, P Berger, B T Kvarme.

MIDDLESBROUGH v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 3-4, —, —, —, 1-2, 2-2, —, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): M Schwarzer, N Cox, N Pearson, G Festa, C Blackmore, P Stamp, Emerson, C Hignett, Juninho, M Beck, C Fleming, A Moore, B Roberts, D Whyte, S Vickers, A Ormerod, M Summerbell.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, A I Haaland, I Woan, S Gemmill, D Saunders, P van Hooijdonk, I Moore, B O'Neil, B Roy, J Lee, S Guinan, S Blatherwick, A Fettis, N Jerkan.

WHEN TO WATCH ON [illegible]

10.45pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights, includes Coventry City v West Ham United)

11am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

3pm Sky Sports Wimbledon v Newcastle United (live)

7pm Sky Sports Arsenal v Liverpool (live)

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON [illegible]

هكذا من الاعلان

FOOTBALL

Strachan searches for key to survival

By Richard Hobson

NINE times in the 30 seasons since winning promotion under Jimmy Hill, Coventry City have been unable to confirm their survival in the top flight until the final day of the season. After sailing so close to the wind in the past, this could be the year in which they are finally blown over.

They entertain West Ham United this afternoon, knowing that anything other than a win could push them into the bottom three of the FA Carling Premiership. Fourth from bottom, they have taken just two points from their past five games, the worst record in the Premiership. West Ham have managed to crawl out of the bottom three during the same period and sit one place above them.

So what is new? Does history not dictate that such *perennial strugglers* were bound to be in this predica*ment? In fact, this season was* meant to be different. The *present squad* has been assembled at a cost of beyond £20 million and, *even in these* inflated times, such a level of investment *demands* higher reward than mere survival.

Coventry began badly under the management of Ron Atkinson and, except for a run of four successive wins in December *under* his replacement, Gordon Strachan, they have fared little better *since*. But for that mini-revival, they would be practically doomed by now.

The 4-0 defeat at Newcastle United last Saturday prompted Strachan to think deeply about his strategy. Inevitably, it raised plenty of questions and not many answers.

"I wonder if some of the players think that, because we are Coventry City, we are bound to get out of trouble because that has always happened in the past," he said. "The fact is that we are on a downward slide and we have to alter that by our own efforts. At the *start* of the season, I never imagined we would be in this position because of the quality of the players in the squad. So what does that tell you? Are the players not as good as people think? Are some of them living on their reputations? Frankly, I am baffled, but one thing I do know is that we are not near the bottom by accident."

Strachan cancelled a players' day off this week. Instead, on Tuesday, he took the side paint-balling, a game which involves teams replicating warfare by firing pellets of paint at each other from customised rifles. The manager — and his car — came off worst.

The game is favoured by *large businesses, who send their employees on "exercise" to foster corporate bonding.* In football, the word is teamwork. "I always *put* great importance on togetherness because, *without* that, it is impossible to play well and enjoy the game," Strachan said.

☐ Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, has opted for an *experienced* squad, more than half of whom are 30 or over, for the World Cup qualifying ties against Estonia next Saturday and Austria on April 2.

"We have a squad with *some* older and experienced players, but that can be to my advantage," Brown said. "Many of the players know that they are playing for a last crack at the World Cup finals in France next year."

SCOTLAND: T Boyd (Celtic), C Burley (Chelsea), C Calderwood (Tottenham Hotspur), J Collins (AS Monaco), D Ferguson (Everton), I Ferguson (Rangers), K Gallacher (Blackburn Rovers), S Gemmill (Nottingham Forest), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), S Howie (Motherwell), D Jackson (Hibernian), E Jess (Coventry City), P Lambert (Borussia Dortmund), J Leighton (Hibernian), B McAllister (Wimbledon), G McAllister (Coventry City), A McCoist (Rangers), J McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers), T McKinlay (Celtic), W McKinlay (Blackburn Rovers), A McLaren (Rangers), P McStay (Celtic), J Spencer (Chelsea), N Sullivan (Wimbledon).

Manager true to his beliefs

STEVE GRITT

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Nick Szczepanik

ANDREW HASSON

Gritt surveys the embattled Goldstone Ground

It is a surname to live up to, but when Steve Gritt, the manager of Brighton and Hove Al*bion, bottom club in the* Nationwide League, describes himself as "Gritt by name and grit by nature", it is *without irony or arrogance.*

Rather, he is modestly agreeing with the assessment of Garry Nelson, who wrote of his then joint-manager at Charlton Athletic, in his book *Left Foot Forward*: "Steve's strength and weaknesses as a player were visibly weighted towards the commitment end of the scale rather than the subtle. But those same characteristics stand him in very good stead as a manager."

When Gritt joined Brighton in December, thick skin and an ability to work miracles seemed more essential than the determination and commitment that his name suggests. Brighton were 11 points behind the team in 91st place, with relegation to the Vauxhall Conference a virtual certainty.

Yet that appeared the least of their worries as supporters' anger at the sale of the Goldstone Ground by an unpopular board of directors continually overshadowed events on the field. To call the atmosphere unwelcoming is an understatement; the writing, in the form of anti-Gritt graffiti, was on the wall the day he arrived.

"The supporters didn't want anyone to take the job," Gritt recalled. "I didn't expect to be received with open *arms, but the depth of their* feelings towards the board took *me by surprise.* I've since been to a meeting with one of the supporters' groups and listened to things they've had to say. *It wasn't really me* they were having a go at. I had a good rapport with the supporters at Charlton and I *knew what it was like* for them when they had to leave The Valley."

That rapport was built over *a total of 18 years that Gritt* had spent at Charlton, first as a player, *making 380 appear*ances in midfield in the top three divisions, then as *joint-*manager for four years with *Alan Curbishley — the first* such arrangement at a *League club. "We set the* pattern." Gritt said. "I en*joyed it. It* was a good grounding, but it got to a *stage* where we sat in an office too long, talking about the team, going round the offices and wouldn't get as far *as we'd like to. Mr Murray* [the managing director] de*cided he only* wanted one man in charge, which was *why I left.*"

The parting was, understandably, *traumatic.* "To be told in ten minutes, after 18 *years at a club, that you are* no longer wanted, is hard to accept, but I have no problems going back there," Gritt said. He continues to play for a Charlton veterans team and holds season tickets at The Valley, but the 18 months of scouting and occasional appearances for Welling United and Tooting and Mitcham that followed his departure were difficult. "I thought, perhaps naively, that I'd find work quite soon after leaving Charlton," he said.

Recognition came eventually with the post that it was widely thought nobody would want, but Gritt beat 50 or so rivals to the Goldstone hot seat. His first task was to persuade the players to ignore off-the-field problems and then to restore confidence. "Everyone had given up hope but I've got players here who have a lot of talent."

He harnessed the talent effectively enough to have narrowed the gap between Brighton and safety to one point by early March and was named manager of the month for February. As so *often,* the award proved a poisoned chalice and results last weekend saw the gap standing at four points.

"Our away performances haven't got the points they deserve," he said. "Last week, at Hull, it just looked a matter of time before we scored. Then one of their guys larrups one in from 30 yards."

It was also wrongly suggested in a local newspaper that Gritt had contemplated resigning after incidents in the last home game, against Leyton Orient. "I'm not a quitter," he said. "Even if the worst comes to the worst, I'll see the job through."

The Brighton supporters, once so hostile, will be relieved to hear it; Gritt, in turn, *paid tribute to them. "To get* 9,000 at the last home game *was unbelievable. The sup*port base is better than any *club in division three, or* division two."

And, dare one add, the Vauxhall Conference? Gritt *nodded. "We have some* tough games, but if at Christ*mas you had* said that we would still have a chance of *avoiding relegation* they'd have snapped your hand off. We've got eight games left [today they play Cardiff City *at the Goldstone*] and they'll be eight battles."

Spoken with true ... determination? Commitment? No, there is really only one word that fits.

Le Tissier's fitness provokes familiar argument

By Russell Kempson

CLUB versus country is a thorny problem that has dogged British football for decades. Yesterday, in the latest episode, Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, and Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, were involved in an undignified dispute about the fitness of Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton playmaker.

Hoddle has selected Le Tissier in his squad for the international match against Mexico at Wembley a week today. Although Souness had said earlier this week that Le Tissier was struggling with foot and groin injuries, Hoddle claimed that Le Tissier had confirmed his fitness when he spoke to him.

However, Souness disputed yesterday Hoddle's version of events. "I spoke to Matt after *he received the call* from Glenn and he said that he was *going to tell Glenn that he* didn't feel he could do himself *justice because of the injuries,*" Souness said. "But Glenn has has insisted on putting out a story totally different to the *one Matt told me.*"

Fabrizio Ravanelli, the Middlesbrough striker, may miss the Coca-Cola Cup final against Leicester City at Wembley on April 6. Ravanelli, scorer of 26 goals this season, has flown to his native Italy for treatment on a torn hamstring.

"We're not quite sure of the extent of the damage, but he could be out for two to three weeks," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, said yesterday. "Personally, I think he's got a good chance of making the final because he's a good healer."

Robson is also planning to speak to Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, to try to secure the release of Juninho, the Middlesbrough midfield player, from Brazil's game against Chile four days before the Coca-Cola Cup decider.

ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD (v Switzerland, at Swindon Town, April 1): B Roberts (Middlesbrough), C Day (Crystal Palace); P Neville (Manchester United), J Carbon (Derby County), R Scimeca (Aston Villa), M Rose (Arsenal), M Broomes (Blackburn Rovers), R Ferdinand (West Ham United), M Hall (Coventry City), L Bowyer (Leeds United), L Briscoe (Sheffield Wednesday), S Hughes (Arsenal), P Stamp (Middlesbrough), J Morris (Chelsea), J Carragher (Liverpool), L Hendrie (Aston Villa), M Bridges (Sunderland), R Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), M Branch (Everton), D Huckerby (Coventry City).

Marseilles expected to persuade Ginola to take wing

By Russell Kempson

MARSEILLES are favourites to sign David Ginola, the unsettled Newcastle United winger, after Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, confirmed yesterday that the player had asked for a transfer. However, Ginola was still included in the squad to play Wimbledon in the FA Carling Premiership at Selhurst Park tomorrow.

"David has asked for a move and that will be dealt with in due course," Dalglish said. "The club will discuss it and make its decision. David will be the first to know the answer. As long as he's here, he's going to be an asset and do the best he can for the club. I'm sure there won't be any adverse reaction from him."

Ginola, 30, has repeatedly expressed his disappointment at being left on *the substitutes'* bench since Dalglish replaced Kevin Keegan at St James' Park in January. He stayed in France, *preferring not to re*turn with the Newcastle party after the 3-0 defeat by AS Monaco in the Uefa Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday.

Marseilles made their interest known earlier this month when they contacted Jean-Francois Larios, Ginola's personal manager. Ginola, a £2.5 million buy from Paris Saint-Germain, had complained that he was being "mucked about" by Dalglish.

Franz Beckenbauer, who is spearheading Germany's attempts to host the 2006 World Cup finals ahead of England, is worried that competition between the countries could harm each other's chances of staging the tournament. Yet, although he fears a third country could enter the race with a late, successful bid, he has ruled out suggestions of a joint effort from England and Germany.

"If you can't organise a World Cup on your own, you should leave it," Beckenbauer, the former Germany coach and captain, said.

Uefa, the sport's European governing body, will support *only one country and will* meet in Switzerland on April *17 to decide. The ultimate* decision will be made by Fifa, *the world governing body.*

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Blackburn v Aston Villa
(2) Coventry v West Ham
(3) Derby v Tottenham
(4) Everton v Manchester Utd
(5) Middlesbrough v Chelsea
(6) Sheffield Wednesday v Leeds
(7) Southampton v Leicester
(8) * Sunderland v Nottingham Forest

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	*30*	*17*	*9*	*4*	*59*	*32*	*60*
Liverpool	30	16	9	5	51	25	57
Arsenal	31	16	9	6	51	28	57
Newcastle	29	15	6	8	58	35	51
Chelsea	30	13	10	7	51	43	49
Sheff Wed	30	12	12	6	39	35	48
Aston Villa	30	13	8	9	35	27	47
Wimbledon	29	12	9	8	41	36	45
Leeds	31	11	7	13	24	32	40
Tottenham	30	11	6	13	36	39	39
Leicester	30	10	8	12	35	42	38
Blackburn	30	8	12	10	33	30	36
Everton	30	9	9	12	37	43	36
Derby	30	7	11	12	31	45	32
Sunderland	31	8	8	15	28	47	32
West Ham	30	7	9	14	28	40	30
Coventry	31	6	12	13	26	43	30
Nottm For	31	6	11	14	26	47	29
† Middlesbro	29	8	7	14	42	51	28
Southampton	30	6	8	16	37	49	26

† Middlesbrough deducted three points

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Birmingham v Sheffield Utd
(10) Bradford v Wolverhampton
(11) Grimsby v Tranmere
(12) Huddersfield v Barnsley
(13) Manchester City v Stoke
(14) Norwich v Bolton
(15) Port Vale v Swindon
(16) QPR v Portsmouth
(17) Reading v Ipswich
(18) Southend v Oxford Utd
(19) West Bromwich v Charlton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	39	23	12	4	85	48	81
Wolves	38	19	8	11	54	39	65
Barnsley	36	17	12	7	60	43	63
Sheffield Utd	38	17	10	11	65	46	61
Ipswich	38	15	13	10	54	46	58
C Palace	38	15	11	10	67	38	56
Norwich	38	15	10	13	55	58	55
Port Vale	39	13	15	11	48	47	54
Stoke	37	15	9	13	44	46	54
Portsmouth	36	15	8	13	45	40	53
Swindon	38	15	7	16	51	54	52
Tranmere	37	14	10	13	50	48	52
QPR	38	13	11	14	48	50	50
Oxford Utd	38	14	7	17	52	53	49
West Brom	38	11	14	13	60	62	47
Reading	38	12	11	13	47	52	47
Man City	37	13	8	16	46	49	47
Charlton	37	13	8	16	44	53	47
Birmingham	36	12	10	14	41	44	46
Huddersfield	38	11	11	16	42	55	44
Grimsby	37	8	11	18	50	70	35
Oldham	36	8	11	17	38	49	35
Bradford	37	8	11	18	38	60	35
Southend	38	7	12	19	35	69	33

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Hastings; Baldock v Ashford; Chelmsford v Nuneaton; Cheltenham v Burton Albion; Crawley v Gravesend and Northfleet; Gresley v Merthyr; Salisbury v Cambridge City; Sittingbourne v Halesowen; Sudbury Tn v Newport AFC; Worcester City v King's Lynn. Midland division: Bedworth v Shepshed D; Corby v Solihull Boro; Dudley Town v Sutton Coldfield Town; Evesham v Raunds T; Hinckley Town v Redditch; Moor Green v Bilston; Paget R v Ilkeston; RC Warwick v Stafford; Stourbridge v Grantham; Tamworth v VS Rugby. Southern division: Cinderford v Weymouth; Cirencester Town v Trowbridge; Clevedon v Tonbridge Angels; Dartford v Fareham; Fisher London v Buckingham Town; Fleet T v Yate; Havant v Weston-super-Mare; Newport (IoW) v Erith and Belvedere; St Leonards v Bashley; Waterlooville v Margate; Witney v Forest Green

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine v Cliftonville; Crusaders v Linfield; Glentoran v Glenavon; Portadown v Ards. First division: Ballyclare v Larne; Bangor v Omagh; Distillery v Ballymena; Newry v Carrick.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v Sligo (7.30).

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Buckie Thistle v Keith; Cove v Fraserburgh; Fort William v Peterhead; Huntly v Brora; Nairn County v Clachnacuddin.

Second division

(20) Blackpool v Bristol City
(21) Bournemouth v York
(22) Bury v Chesterfield
(23) Crewe v Peterborough
(24) Gillingham v Wycombe
(25) Millwall v Watford
(26) Notts County v Stockport
(27) Plymouth v Wrexham
(28) Shrewsbury v Rotherham
(29) Walsall v Burnley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
* Brentford	35	16	13	6	50	34	61
* Luton	35	16	10	9	57	39	58
Bury	34	16	10	8	50	34	58
Crewe	35	18	4	13	46	38	58
Millwall	37	16	10	11	46	43	58
Watford	35	14	16	5	38	28	58
Burnley	37	16	9	12	58	39	57
Stockport	33	15	10	8	47	35	55
Bristol City	36	15	9	12	54	42	54
Walsall	36	15	9	12	43	37	54
Wrexham	34	12	16	6	39	34	52
Chesterfield	34	14	10	10	33	30	52
Blackpool	36	12	13	11	45	39	49
Bournemouth	38	13	10	15	35	37	49
Preston	38	14	6	18	41	50	48
Plymouth	36	11	12	13	41	50	45
Gillingham	35	12	8	15	42	49	44
Shrewsbury	38	10	12	16	47	61	42
York	36	11	9	16	38	53	42
Bristol Rov	37	10	11	16	37	42	41
Wycombe	36	10	8	18	36	49	38
Peterborough	37	8	12	17	47	66	36
Rotherham	36	5	13	18	29	51	28
Notts County	36	5	12	19	26	47	27

** not including last night's match*

Third division

(30) Brighton v Cardiff
(31) Cambridge Utd v Chester
(32) Fulham v Hartlepool
(33) Hull v Carlisle
(34) Leyton Orient v Lincoln
(35) Mansfield v Northampton
(36) Scarborough v Exeter
(37) Swansea v Darlington
(38) Torquay v Scunthorpe
(39) Wigan v Barnet

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	37	21	10	6	58	34	73
Wigan	38	21	8	9	74	48	71
Fulham	37	21	8	8	65	35	71
Swansea	38	18	6	14	50	42	60
Chester	38	15	14	9	43	34	59
Camb Utd	37	17	7	13	46	47	58
Cardiff	37	17	6	14	47	44	57
Scarborough	39	14	14	11	56	57	56
Northampton	37	15	10	12	58	40	55
* Colchester	37	13	16	8	52	41	55
Hull	37	12	16	9	37	38	52
Scunthorpe	36	15	6	15	49	50	51
Lincoln	38	13	11	14	52	59	50
Mansfield	37	12	13	12	40	39	49
* Rochdale	37	11	15	11	46	46	48
Torquay	38	12	9	17	38	48	45
Barnet	37	10	15	12	35	36	45
L Orient	38	10	12	16	36	45	42
Darlington	37	10	9	18	53	66	39
* Hereford	38	10	9	19	44	58	39
Exeter	38	10	9	19	38	54	39
Hartlepool	38	10	8	20	41	58	38
* Doncaster	36	10	7	19	38	57	37
† Brighton	38	9	8	21	45	65	33

† Brighton deducted two points
** not including last night's matches*

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Bromsgrove v Hayes
(—) Farnborough v Northwich
(—) Hednesford v Kettering
(—) Macclesfield v Gateshead
(—) Morecambe v Dover
(—) Rushden and Diamonds v Telford
(—) Slough v Southport
(—) Stalybridge v Kidderminster
(—) Welling v Altrincham

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Semi-finals, second leg: North Ferriby v Guisborough Town; Whitby v Banstead Ath

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Fourth round: Bishop Auckland v Gloucester; Dagenham and Redbridge v Ashton United; Heybridge v Woking; Stevenage v Colwyn Bay

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Alfreton v Bamber Bridge; Barrow v Blyth Spartans; Boston v Knowsley; Gainsborough v Lancaster; Guiseley v Leek; Hyde v Emley; Runcorn v Frickley; Spennymoor v Accrington Stanley; Winsford v Chorley. First division: Atherton LR v Matlock Town; Congleton v Bradford Pk Ave; Flixton v Gretna; Great Harwood v Eastwood Town; Harrogate Town v Leigh; Lincoln United v Droylsden; Netherfield v Farsley Celtic; Whitley Bay v Warrington; Workington v Stocksbridge PS; Worksop v Curzon Ashton.

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Dundee Utd v Raith
(41) Dunfermline v Celtic
(42) Hibernian v Aberdeen
(43) Motherwell v Hearts
(44) Rangers v Kilmarnock

First division

(45) Clydebank v Dundee
(46) Falkirk v East Fife
(47) Partick v Greenock Morton
(48) St Johnstone v Stirling
(49) St Mirren v Airdrie

Second division

(—) Ayr v Dumbarton
(—) Berwick v Brechin
(—) Clyde v Livingston
(—) Hamilton v Stenhousemuir
(—) Queen of South v Stranraer

Third division

(—) Arbroath v Inverness CT
(—) Cowdenbeath v Forfar
(—) Montrose v Albion
(—) Queen's Park v Alloa
(—) Ross County v East Stirling

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Sutton United; Boreham Wood v Staines; Bromley v Grays; Carshalton v Kingstonian; Chertsey v St Albans; Hendon v Harrow; Oxford City v Dulwich; Yeading v Purfleet; Yeovil v Aylesbury. First division: Abingdon Town v Tooting and Mitcham; Barton Rovers v Aldershot Town; Billericay v Bognor Regis; Chesham v Whyteleafe; Croydon v Berkhamsted; Maidenhead United v Worthing; Marlow v Basingstoke; Molesey v Thame; Uxbridge v Leyton Pennant; Walton and Hersham v Hampton; Wokingham v Canvey Island. Second division: Bracknell v Dorking; Chalfont St Peter v Barking; Cheshunt v Horsham; Collier Row and Romford v Wembley; Edgware v Tilbury; Hungerford v H Hempstead; Leatherhead v Bedford T; Ware v Egham; Windsor and Eton v Metropolitan Police; Witham v Leighton Town. Third division: Braintree v Northwood; Clapton v Harlow; Epsom and Ewell v Camberley; Hornchurch v East Thurrock; Kingsbury v Flackwell Heath; Lewes v Tring; Southall v Wealdstone; Wingate and Finchley v Aveley.

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Rhyl; Bangor City v Welshpool; Barry v Connah's Quay; Cwmbran v Caernarfon; Ebbw Vale v Cemaes Bay (2.30); Holywell v Briton Ferry; Llansantffraid v Porthmadog; Newtown v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30); Ton Pentre v Caersws

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Brentwood v Saffron Walden; Burnham Ramblers v Ford United; East Ham v Stansted; Great Wakering v Bowers; Hullbridge Sports v Basildon U; Ilford v Sawbridgeworth; Southend Manor v Eton Manor

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Feltham; Bedfont v Merstham; Corinthian-Casuals v Farnham; Cove v Cobham; Hartley Wintney v Walton Casuals; Raynes Park Vale v Cranleigh; Reading Town v Netherne; Sandhurst v Chipstead; Viking Sports v Godalming and Guildford; Westfield v Ashford

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Hillingdon Boro; Croydon v Hanwell; Harefield v Brook House; Ruislip Manor v Amersham; St Margaretsbury v Woodford.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey v Potters Bar; Biggleswade v London Colney; Brache Sparta v Royston; Harpenden v Bedford; Langford v Hoddesdon; Letchworth v Toddington

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Chippenham; Brislington v Westbury; Odd Down v Bristol Manor Farm; Paulton R v Backwell; Taunton v Bridport; Torrington v Tiverton

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town v Felixstowe P and T; Diss v Newmarket; Fakenham v Woodbridge Town; Great Yarmouth v Warboys; Hadleigh U v March; Halstead v Gorleston; Lowestoft v Harwich and Parkeston; Soham v Sudbury; Stowmarket v Clacton; Wisbech v Tiptree; Wroxham v Sudbury Res

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Whitchurch; Andover v East Cowes; BAT v Gosport; Bemerton Heath v Petersfield; Bournemouth v Romsey; Christchurch v Totton; Cowes Sports v Aerostructures; Eastleigh v Downton; Portsmouth v Ryde Sports; Wimborne Town v Brockenhurst

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town v Pagham; Hailsham v Arundel; Hassocks v Mile Oak; Horsham YMCA v Langney Sports; Portfield v Oakwood; Ringmer v Shoreham; Saltdean v Three Bridges; Selsey v Whitehawk; Southwick v Burgess Hill; Wick v Peacehaven and Telscombe

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Faversham v Beckenham; Furness v Thamesmead; Greenwich v Canterbury; Hythe v Folkestone Invicta; Lordswood v Corinthian; Ramsgate v Chatham; Tunbridge Wells v Whitstable. Town Cup: Semi-final, first leg: Sheppey v Cray; Slade Green v Herne Bay

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Endsleigh; Bicester v Wantage; Brackley v Abingdon United; Burnham v Almondsbury; Didcot v Fairford; Highworth v Carterton; Shortwood v Kintbury; Tuffley v Swindon Supermarine

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Kempston; Cogenhoe v Long Buckby; Holbeach v Ford Sports; Mirrlees Blackstone v Wellingborough; Newport Pagnell v Eynesbury; Potton v Wootton; Spalding v Northampton Spencer; S and L Corby v Bourne. Cup: Semi-final: Desborough v Stotfold

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Bloxwich Town; Blakenhall v Oldbury U; Boldmere St M v Pelsall V; Chasetown v Hinckley Athletic; Halesowen H v Rushall O; Rocester v Pershore T; Sandwell v Bridgnorth; Shifnal T v Willenhall; Stapenhill v Knypersley V; Stafford T v W Mid Police

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Cradley Town; Brierley Hill T v Gornal Res; Darlaston v Walsall Wood; Ettingshall H v Stourport S; Lye Town v Wolverhampton C; Malvern T v Hill Top R; Stafford T v Wednesfield; Westfields v Tividale

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College v David Lloyd AFC; Boldmere S v Highgate; Knowle v Handrahan Timbers; Richmond Swifts v Kenilworth; Shirley v Massey Ferguson; Studley BKL v Coleshill; Wellesbourne v Alvechurch; West Midland Fire Service v Worcester.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Eastwood H; Blackpool Rovers v Glossop North End; Bootle v Salford; Holker Old Boys v Prescot Cables; Kidsgrove v Vauxhall GM; Maine Road v Clitheroe; Mossley v Chadderton; Newcastle Town v Burscough; Penrith v Rossendale; St Helens v Nantwich Town; Trafford v Darwen

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Whickham; Consett v Stockton; Dunston Federation v Morpeth; Durham v Shildon; Easington v Bedlington Terriers; RTM Newcastle v South Shields; Tow Law v Murton; West Auckland v Crook

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Glasshoughton Welfare; Arnold v Thackley; Ashfield v Sheffield; Brigg Town v Ossett Albion; Liversedge v Denaby; Maltby MW v Hucknall Town; Ossett Town v Hallam; Pickering v Hatfield Main; Pontefract Cols v Selby

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Southend (11.0); Fulham v Cambridge (11.0); Ipswich v Charlton (11.0); Millwall v West Ham (11.0); Portsmouth v Norwich (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea (11.0); Tottenham v Gillingham (11.0); Watford v Leyton Orient (11.0). Second division: Barnet v Luton (11.0); Bournemouth v Southampton (11.0); Brentford v Reading (11.0); Brighton v Colchester (12.0); Bristol City v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Crystal Palace v Swindon (11.0); Wimbledon v Oxford Utd (11.0); Wycombe v Tottenham (11.0)

OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning OB v Clapham OX; Glyn OB v Old Ignatians; Latymer OB v Old Meadonians; Old Aloysians v Old Kingsburians; Old Vaughanians v Old Hamptonians

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Old Esthameians v West Wycombe; National Westminster Bank v Polytechnic; Norsemen v Civil Service; Crouch End Vampires v Old Actonians; East Barnet OG v South Bank

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v Ulysses; Parkfield v Nottsborough; Wandsworth v Southgate County; Witan v Hale End Athletic

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Cholmeleians v Witteians; Etonians v Chigwellians

SCHOOLS MATCHES (kick off 10.30 unless stated): English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Semi-final: Newall Green, Greater Manchester v City School Sheffield, South Yorkshire (at Stretford Victoria, 11.30). London Hawke Trophy: Semi-final: North Kent v Islington. Crisp Shield: Semi-final: Redbridge v Newham. Pickford Shield: Semi-final: Southampton v Poole. Val Cup: Vale of White Horse v Mid Wilts. Northern merit: Blackburn v Leeds; Salford v Sefton. Gibson Trophy: South Surrey v Croydon. Cotswold League: Mid Oxon v Gloucester. Snowdown Cup: Sefton v St Helens. Inter-association: Hackney v Hartlepool; Luton v Swindon. Kent six-a-side championships (at Bexley, 9.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Semi-final

St Helens v Salford
(at Wigan)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Lock Lane v Mayfield; Saddleworth v Beverley; West Hull v Woolston. First division: Askam v Barrow Island; Blackbrook v Leigh East; Oulton v Thornhill; Walney Central v Millom; Wigan St Judes v Moldgreen. Second division: New Earswick v Dewsbury Moor; York Acorn v Hull Dockers.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Fifth round: Askam v Wigan Tech; BRK v Normanton; Dudley Hill v Queens; Kells v Wigan St Pats; Ovenden v Milford; Shaw Cross v Ellenborough; Siddal v Skirlaugh; West Bowling v Clayton

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Batley v London; Widnes v Sheffield. Second division: Carlisle v Lancs Lynx (2.0); Hemel Hempstead v Huddersfield; Prescot v Keighley; Rochdale v Barrow (2.0)

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Wokingham v Gore Court. Hampshire/Surrey: Old Cranleighans v London University. Kent/Sussex: Blackheath v Herne Bay.

CLUB MATCHES: Chelmsford v West Herts; Hounslow v Cannock; Luton Town v Bishop's Stortford; Nuneaton v Hampton-in-Arden; Peterborough v Cambridge City; Westbury v Robinsons; Weston-super-Mare v Newport

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Clifton v Trojans (12.30); Hightown v Doncaster (noon); Leicester v Ipswich (12.30); Slough v Sutton Canada Life (2.0). First division: Blueharts v Wimbledon (2.0); Bradford v Bracknell (1.50); Canterbury v Bedans (noon); Olton v Chelmsford (2.0). Second division: Ealing v West Witney (1.15); Loughborough Students v Exmouth (2.30); Sherwood v Old Loughtonians (noon); Woking v St Albans (2.0).

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: St Fagans v Cardiff Athletic; Swansea v Cardiff.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford v Bury St Edmunds; Bexleyheath v Harleston Magpies; Ipswich v Cambridge City; Sevenoaks v Welwyn Garden City. Midlands: Hampton-in-Arden v Bedford; Leicester v Kettering; Pickwick v Crimson Ramblers; West Bromwich v Aldridge. North: Carlisle v Blackburn; Chester v Poynton; Sheffield v York; Welton v Liverpool. South: Dulwich v Worthing; Hampstead v Winchmore Hill; Horsham v Southampton; Tulse Hill v Reading; Winchester v City of Portsmouth. West: Cheltenham v Redland; Colwall v Exeter; Leominster v Bournemouth; St Austell v Yate.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bristol v Sale
Gloucester v Leicester P
Harlequins v West Hartlepool
Wasps v Orrell
(at Sudbury)

Second division

Blackheath v Nottingham
London Scottish v Coventry
Newcastle v Moseley
Rotherham v Bedford
Rugby v Richmond
Waterloo v Wakefield

Third division

Clifton v Exeter
Fylde v Wharfedale
Havant v Rosslyn Park
Liverpool St Helens v Reading
Lydney v London Welsh
Morley v Harrogate
Redruth v Leeds
Walsall v Otley

Fourth division north

Birmingham/Solihull v
Preston Grasshoppers
Kendal v Sandal
Manchester v Hereford
Nuneaton v Sheffield
Stoke-on-Trent v Aspatria
Stourbridge v Lichfield
Worcester v Winnington Park

Fourth division south

Askeans v Camberley
Barking v Henley
Berry Hill v Weston-super-Mare
Charlton Park v Metropolitan Police
High Wycombe v Cheltenham
Newbury v North Walsham
Plymouth v Tabard

SOUTH WEST: First division: Brixham v Gloucester Old Boys; Camborne v Barnstaple; Launceston v Bridgwater; Matson v Stroud; Salisbury v St Ives; Torquay v Maidenhead.

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Basingstoke v Norwich; Guildford and Godalming v Esher; Old Colfeians v Ruislip; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Southend; Thurrock v Sutton and Epsom; Wimbledon v Staines.

MIDLANDS: First division: Leighton Buzzard v Hinckley; Mansfield v Derby; Scunthorpe v Camp Hill; Stafford v Burton; Stockwood Park v Broadstreet; Syston v Belgrave; Westleigh v Barkers Butts; *Whitchurch v Wolverhampton.*

NORTH: First division: Bradford and Bingley v New Brighton; Bridlington v Broughton Park; Hull Ionians v Tynedale; Sedgley Park v Wigton; Widnes v Macclesfield; West Park Bramhope v Stockton

RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Semi-finals: Doncaster v Middlesbrough (at Otley); *Sudbury v Thanet Wanderers (at Henley).*

RFU JUNIOR CUP: Semi-finals: Crewe and Nantwich v Painswick (at Lichfield, 2.30); Harpenden v Huddersfield YMCA (at Burton-on-Trent, 2.30)

Anglo-Welsh Cup
Pool 2B
Northampton v Newport

Swalec Cup
Quarter-finals

Cardiff v South Wales Police (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Bridgend P
Llanelli v Pontypool (2.30)
Neath v Swansea P

Welsh League
First division

Dunvant v Neath (2.30)
Newbridge v Treorchy (2.30)

Second division

Aberavon v Abercynon (2.30)
Bonymaen v Abertillery (2.30)
Maesteg v Ystradgynlais (2.30)
Cardiff Institute v Cross Keys (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION (2.30): Builth Wells v Tredegar; Kenfig Hill v Tenby United; Merthyr v Llanharan; Mountain Ash v *Penarth*

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-18 international: England v France (at Twickenham). Daily Mail Cup: Under-18 final: Colston's v Kirkham GS (at Twickenham, 1.15). Under-15 final: RGS High Wycombe v Whitgift (at Twickenham, 11.45)

SRU Tennents 1556 Cup
Fourth round

Ayr v Kelso
Berwick v Corstorphine
Currie v Gala
Dundee HSFP v Glasgow Academicals
Edinburgh Academicals v Kilmarnock
Edinburgh University v Glenrothes
Glasgow Southern v Aberdeen GSFP
Hawick v Boroughmuir
Hawick Linden v Stewart's Melville FP
Heriot's FP v Jed-Forest
Kirkcaldy v Hamilton Academicals
Peebles v Musselburgh
St Boswells v Melrose
Stirling County v Stewartry
West of Scotland v Glasgow HK

SRU TENNENTS 1556 BOWL: First round: Biggar v Gordonians; Bute v Dunfermline; Grangemouth v Howe of Fife; Haddington v Selkirk; Helensburgh v Cartha QP; Livingston v Aberdeenshire; Preston Lodge v Garnock; Trinity Academicals v Langholm.

Insurance Corporation League
First division

Ballymena v Garryowen (2.30)
Cork Constitution v
Blackrock College (2.30)
Instonians v Dungannon (2.30)
Lansdowne v Old Wesley (2.30)
Old Crescent v Young Munster (2.30)
Shannon v Terenure College (2.30)
St Mary's College v Old Belvedere (2.30)

Second division

Bective Rangers v Derry (2.30)
Highfield v Wanderers (2.30)
Monkstown v Dolphin (2.30)
NIFC v Malone (2.30)
Skerries v Greystones (2.30)
Sunday's Well v Clontarf (2.30)
UCC v DLSP (2.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Crystal Palace v Newcastle (6.0), Derby v Leicester (7.30); Hemel and Watford v London (7.30); Worthing v Sheffield (8.0). National League: Men: First division: Liverpool v Solent; Mid Sussex v Cardiff; Nottingham v Ware; Oxford v Coventry. Second division: Flintshire v Thames Valley; Northampton v Chessington; Sheffield v Swindon; Slough v Bournemouth; South Wales v South Bank. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham v Northampton; Ipswich v Birmingham; London v Thames Valley; Nottingham v Harlesden; Rhondda v Crystal Palace; *Spelthorne v Sheffield. Second division:* Play-offs: Semi-final: Liverpool v Leicester.

BOWLS: English indoor champion of champions (at Bembridge)

BOXING: British super-featherweight championship (vacant) Neil Swain (Wales) v Michael Brodie (Manchester). Super-middleweight bout: Joe Calzaghe (Wales) v Tyler Hughes (US) (at *Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester).*

GOLF: University match: Oxford v Cambridge (at Royal St George's).

ICE HOCKEY: BT Connections Superleague play-off championship: Semi-finals: Cardiff v Sheffield (1.30); Ayr v Nottingham (6.40) (both at Nynex Arena, Manchester).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Heaton Mersey v Cheadle; Hulmeians v Boardman and Eccles

ROWING: Head of the River (Tideway).

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters (Co Kildare)

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Bradford v Swindon (7.30); Coventry v Wolverhampton (7.30).

SQUASH: Interlink women's open (at Windsor).

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting *(at Cardiff).*

VOLLEYBALL: National League: Men: First division: Whitefield v Ealing (7.0); Warwick v Lewisham (6.30); Tooting v Liverpool (6.30); Stoke v Leeds (6.30); *Crofton v Wessex (3.0).* Women: First division: Loughborough v Liverpool (4.30); Britannia Music City v Salford (7.30).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Carling Premiership

* Wimbledon v Newcastle (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division

Oldham v Crystal Palace (1.0)

Second division

Bristol Rovers v Preston

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: *Buckingham Town v St Leonards*

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v UCD (3.15); Home Farm v Bohemians (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Ilkeston Town v Arsenal (at New Manor Ground, 2.0); Southampton v Doncaster (at AFC Totton, 2.0); Wembley v *Croydon (at Vale Farm, Wembley, 2.0).* League Cup: Final: Millwall v Everton (at Barnet FC, 2.30)

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Aston Villa v Stourport; Garswood St Helens v Bradford. Southern division: Berkhamsted v Three Bridges; Brighton and Hove v Langford; Oxford Res v Wimbledon

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Montaigu international tournament: England v Bolivia (at Les Sables d'Olonne, 2.30). Welsh Schools Shield: *Quarter-final*: Cynon Valley v Cardiff

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Blueharts v Hull (at Hitchin Boys' School, 2.30); Bournville v Beeston (at King Edward's Girls' School, Birmingham, 2.30); Bromley v Indian Gymkhana (at Priory Leisure Centre, Orpington, 1.0); Brooklands v Isca (at George's Road, Sale, 2.0); City of Portsmouth v Lewes (at Alexandra Park, 1.30); Crostyx v Oxford Hawks (at Chigwell, 1.0); *Doncaster* v Oxford University (at Bennetthorpe, 2.0); Edgbaston v Sheffield (at Birmingham University, 2.30); Gloucester City v St Albans (at Plock Court, 1.30); Harleston Magpies v Stourport (at Shotford Heath, 2.0); Warrington v Trojans (at Penketh County HS, 1.0)

RUGBY UNION

Welsh League
First division

Ebbw Vale v Caerphilly (2.30)

CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final: Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire v Yorkshire (at Beeston, 3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Super League

Castleford v Wigan (6.35)
Halifax v Sheffield

First division

Swinton v Workington
Whitehaven v Hull (3.30)

Second division

Barrow v Rochdale
Doncaster v Batley (2.0)
York v Prescot

Silk Cut Plate
Semi-finals

Leigh v Hull Kingston Rovers
Widnes v Hunslet

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Thames Valley (5.30); Sheffield v Crystal Palace (5.30); Leopards v Chester (6.30); London v Derby (6.0).

BOWLS: English indoor champion of champions (at Bembridge).

GOLF: University match: Oxford v Cambridge (at Royal St George's).

MOTOR SPORT: British Formula Three Championship (at Donington Park).

ROWING: Women's University Boat Race (Henley)

SNOOKER: Benson and Hedges Irish *Masters (Co Kildare).*

SPEEDWAY: Speedway Star Cup: Eastbourne v Ipswich (3.30); Swindon v Bradford (6.0)

SQUASH: Interlink women's open (at *Windsor).*

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff).

VOLLEYBALL: National League: First division: Birmingham v Leeds (12.45); *Essex v Salford (1.30)*; Britannia Music City v Sheffield (2.0)

RACING 50, 51

Fifty years on: why Timeform is still a good bet

SPORT

SATURDAY MARCH 22 1997

TENNIS 52

Williams quick off the mark in Lipton debut

Paris match stirs Liverpool memories

By David Maddock

IT IS Paris in the spring then, the draw for the Cup Winners' Cup semi-finals offering Liverpool a return to the Parc de Princes stadium, where, memorably, they secured a third European Cup final success in 1981.

Much has happened since that balmy evening, when the Anfield club joined the ranks of European superpowers by, fittingly, outmanoeuvring Real Madrid to lift the champions' trophy again.

Heysel has removed the innocence of that time forever, but still Liverpool will take fond memories of a European Cup won by an Alan Kennedy goal into their semi-final, first leg against Paris Saint-Germain on April 10.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, was a member of the backroom staff that enjoyed the springtime stroll in Paris and Sammy Lee, now an Anfield coach, formed a midfield with Graeme Souness that belligerently countered the threat of the Real playmaker, Uli Stielike. It was a night when Liverpool confirmed England's arrival at the high table of European football, but Evans is reluctant to dwell on such niceties.

Given the news at lunchtime yesterday of the draw among what is considered as strong a final four as the competition has produced, Evans was reluctant to loiter in the past. "It is a good draw, because it will be an exciting tie," he said.

"We had no preference at this stage because all four teams are equally strong, although it is nice to be heading back to Paris. People are talking about our success there in the European Cup, but really that is irrelevant. This team of players have not won a European trophy and the important thing is that we go out and start to make history all over again."

If the draw was kind in any way to Liverpool, then it was in handing them a visit to Paris in the first leg, usually regarded as an advantage in knockout competitions. Manchester United, too, received the same benefit and will visit Germany in the first leg of their European Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund on April 9.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, had initially hoped for such an outcome after pushing past FC Porto on Wednesday, but now the Scot accepts that there are benefits whichever way round the tie is played. "I've had time to consider the draw for who is at home first and I came up with reasons to support both scenarios," he said.

"Away from home first allows you to go for a decent result and then bring them back to Old Trafford, which, I'm sure, will be seething for a semi-final. But then we were magnificent at home against Porto and we could use that momentum, too. I'm glad to be playing against a team of Dortmund's quality."

Both Liverpool and Manchester United are second favourites for their respective competitions, offering some perspective for those who continue to question the standing of English clubs in Europe. It is true that Newcastle United's tame performance in Monaco last Tuesday hardly enhanced the Premiership's reputation, but a study of the remaining teams in the three European competitions provides a less emotional analysis of the balance of power in Europe.

Italy, predictably, has the right to claim to be the strongest nation with three semi-finalists, but behind them are England, Germany, Spain and France with two teams remaining. The only other country represented is Holland, with the sole presence of Ajax. There is an elite developing across the Continent and the English are healthy movers among them.

Indeed, there is a reasonable case to be made for both Manchester United and Liverpool maintaining their momentum all the way to their finals, a scenario likely to put England on a par with the Italians.

Ferguson, confident now after the very public growing pains of his side, yesterday offered hope of English representation in the European Cup final for the first time since 1985.

"I'm not apprehensive. I do not believe that Borussia are a better side than us. I think it is very close and that it is even money as to which side will go through," he said.

"We have similar characteristics and even their stadium is like an English stadium. I think it will be a really good, close game that we should be confident about."

Ferguson believes that Manchester United supporters will be exonerated for their role in the troubles in Oporto last Wednesday when a committee of Uefa, the European governing body, meets on Tuesday evening to examine reports from the second leg.

EUROPEAN CUP DRAWS

SEMI-FINALS

EUROPEAN CUP: Borussia Dortmund v Manchester United, Ajax v Juventus.
☐ *First leg April 9, second leg April 23*

UEFA CUP: Tenerife v Schalke 04, Internazionale v AS Monaco
☐ *First leg April 8, second leg April 22*

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Barcelona v Fiorentina, Paris Saint-Germain v Liverpool
☐ *First leg April 10, second leg April 24*

Racing the loser as political posturing hits Tote

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

MAJOR GENERAL Guy Watkins has "won" the race for the Tote chairmanship but now finds himself the subject of an unprecedented objection and political inquiry which will take months to resolve.

The former chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club must feel like a 33-1 shot who has come from last to first — only to face the prospect of disqualification through no fault of his own.

Having failed to reach the shortlist of three for the Tote job submitted to Michael Howard, Watkins, 64, subsequently caught the eye of the Home Secretary and a press statement announcing his appointment was prepared.

However, he finds himself a victim of early general election skirmishes which mean no successor to Lord Wyatt of Weeford will be appointed until after polling day. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the disagreement between Howard and Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, which prompted the postponement, racing, the Tote and Watkins are all losers.

The worst-kept secret in racing was Lord Wyatt's intense lobbying on behalf of Sir Willie Rous for the Tote chairmanship. The peer does not take kindly to having his views rejected, least of all by the Home Secretary, and it is safe to assume that he will be indignant. Meanwhile, Watkins will have to sit and suffer as people debate whether he is the right man for the job.

His credentials, superficially at least, are impressive. Educated at King's, Canterbury, he yearned to become a trainer but followed family tradition and joined the Army in 1951. He became one of its youngest generals and held a variety of posts before retiring in 1986 to take up the post as chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club.

During his ten-year spell in the colony, racing boomed. Betting turnover went up to HK$80 billion (about £6.5 billion), the horse population increased from 750 to 1,100, attendances grew and simulcasting was introduced.

He returned to Britain last spring, since when he has become a director of the British Bloodstock Agency and Racecourse Holdings Trust, the Jockey Club-owned subsidiary which owns a dozen courses including Epsom, Sandown and Cheltenham.

Election casualty, page 1
Racing, pages 50 and 51

Junior figure skater poised to become women's world champion

Lipinski makes child's play of grown-up sport

Simon Barnes confesses his unease at the involvement of girls in adult competition

Let us get the important fact down first. The leader of the women's world figure skating championship here in Lausanne lost her final milk tooth a fortnight ago. Tara Lipinski, of the United States, is 14, was brought up in a place called Sugarland, Texas, stands 4ft 8in tall and weighs a fraction under 5½ stone.

Yes, it's pass-the-sick-bag time again. Actually, skating has just raised its minimum age to 15, but Lipinski gets in because she had already made her senior competitive debut. Mind you, she does not look 14, with her tightly-bunned hair, her lipstick and her mascara, she looks about ten.

"I want her to look like she is 14," Richard Callaghan, her coach, said. "But a sophisticated 14." Abandon hope. She skated her short programme yesterday to music from the film, *Little Women*. Little women indeed! This was a little girl, lisping round the ice. I was conscious of a deep and powerful sense of toe-curling embarrassment. The American press already have a private nickname for her. They call her "The robotic shrimp".

She is on course to be a multimillionairess before the disaster of puberty strikes, but that looks years off. If Lipinski manages to skate clean today, she will become the youngest world champion since Sonia Henje, of Norway, won in 1927. It is a thought that makes many people profoundly uneasy.

But there are some people in ice skating who see no problem. A minimum age, their counter-argument runs, will bring a situation in which the juniors are better than the seniors. And certainly there is no arguing with Lipinski's jumping.

Spectacular? Not a bit of it. The simple physics of size give her a colossal advantage. If you want to get a better idea of what this means, imagine George Foreman performing a triple lutz. When it comes to defying gravity, tumbling and twisting, the laws of physics state that a good little 'un will always beat a good big 'un.

Lipinski is very talented, and, quite obviously, a massively strong-minded person. And it is horrible to watch her: really quite disturbing. We have been through all this with gymnastics, and the sport has responded by raising its minimum age to 16 and loading the marks in favour of grace. After all, in both sports, the same movement is much easier for an athlete of 4ft 8in than one of 5ft 4in. The shorter performer is a virtuoso, perhaps a cute one. The taller woman is a creature of beauty and grace.

However, women's ice skating finds itself in the absurd position in which puberty is a disadvantage. This is clearly silly. Michelle Kwan, the defending champion, another American now at the venerable age of 16, is struggling. What was easy last year is hard today. "Michelle has had to struggle with the fact that her body has been changing quite a bit in the past year," Frank Carroll, her coach, said. Well, that's the way it is with girls and their bodies. I remember when I first noticed that.

I am not objecting to the presence of little girls in adult sport on the grounds of child abuse. Skating is of course a cruel business, but then so is every other sport. Look at the wastage rate of little boys who want to be professional footballers if you want to ring your hands. The matter is normally out of mind because you don't see little boys playing in the Premiership.

No, it is more a question of adult abuse. A system of marks that penalises competitors who have had the misfortune to reach puberty is simply absurd. It is abuse of adults, and of the whole nature of and point of sport.

Cares hunger round the older competitors. Kwan, strung up like a banjo at the start, remembering her recent disastrous performance in the United States national championships, missed her combination jump. Nicole Bobek is now a crone of 19. She, you'll recall, is the bad girl of skating — no, not the *really* bad one, that's Tonya Harding. Bobek merely faced a house-breaking charge a couple of years ago. She, shattered by the death of her coach, Carlo Fassi, on Thursday, burst into tears at the start of her performance, and fell during the course of it.

The saddest sight of all was Lu Chen, the world champion in 1995, when she seemed a creature made almost entirely of cloud. She was nine-tenths nimbus and a champion. Now she is a handsome woman of 20 who is hag-ridden by doubt. She has never recovered from a stress fracture of her ankle. She came here after just three weeks' training, and got one desperate mark of three (out of six, remember). She failed to make the cut and will not skate in the free programme this afternoon.

They know what worry is, these women of ice skating. "I've been thinking too much," Kwan said. "Instead of just going out on to the ice and doing it." No sign of such an affliction in Lipinski, a person to whom — now — worry, and perhaps thought itself is a stranger. I suppose we were all immortal at 14.

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Bobek skates on saddened by the death of her coach

KEVIN LAMARQUE

Lipinski acknowledges the applause after her short programme in Lausanne yesterday

Edwards suffers failings of IAAF drug policy

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
in Turin

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) admitted here yesterday that its four-year ban on athletes who take drugs is unenforceable in some countries and introduced a two-tier punishment system. It means, for example, that Paul Edwards, the British shot putter, who was sent home from the 1994 Commonwealth Games, remains suspended knowing that, if he was German, French, Russian or Spanish, or from one of at least eight countries outside Great Britain, he would be free to compete.

In a bizarre announcement, the IAAF reinstated two German athletes after they had served two years because their national law had ruled that a four-year ban was unreasonable. Yet it threw out an appeal by Edwards, who is in a third year of a four-year suspension. Britain has no such law. Dr Arne Ljungqvist, the chairman of the IAAF medical commission, admitted that the ruling was unfair.

"That is the problem we have," Ljungqvist said. "It is not my personal wish to reduce the ban, but I must face facts — that we have a situation where we cannot enforce the rules." Ljungqvist said that a two-year ban would operate on athletes from countries where the law so dictated, where there was court-case precedent or a government statement which "would be recognised as equal to law or precedent".

When an athlete fails a drugs test, it is the responsibility of the national member federation to enforce the ban. "Realising that a member cannot go against the law, we have, in theory, two mechanisms. One is to expel the member because the member cannot abide by our rules, although that is just a hypothetical possibility; the other is to reinstate athletes under the exceptional circumstances rule." So now Susen Tiedtke-Green, a long jumper, and Martin Brehmer, a middle-distance runner, both German, are free to compete.

The IAAF council, which took the decision, agreed to recommend to congress, which meets in July, that all bans be reduced from four years to two. "We have put it before congress twice [in the past] and twice it has been rejected," Ljungqvist said, "but we cannot implement a four-year ban worldwide and it is unfair to have it."

M4

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